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The final farewell
A family and a nation
lay the Queen to rest



Editorials

The King must steer ministers away from the temptation of division

In his sermon at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, the Archbishop of Canterbury made reference to her example of public service, and appeared to contrast it, unfavourably, with that set by the political classes: “People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases, those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.”

Justin Welby was entirely right to echo, once again, the paeans of praise for the Queen’s record of public service. As he put it: “Few leaders receive the outpouring of love that we have seen.” One of the more surprising aspects of the last few momentous days has indeed been the extent to which the late Queen was respected and even loved around the world. German television channels cleared their schedules for the funeral service.

President Biden said she reminded him of his own mother.

President Macron was elegiac: “To you, she was your Queen. To us, she was The Queen. She will be with all of us forever.” From the other side of the planet, the prime minister of Fiji, Frank

Bainimarama, came to deliver a warm tribute: “Fijian hearts are heavy this morning as we bid farewell to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We will always treasure the joy of her visits to Fiji along with every moment that her grace, courage and wisdom were a comfort and inspiration to our people, even a world away.”

The archbishop’s words had a more parochial and political echo, though. For reasons that are all too obvious, they were also taken by some to be a gratuitous slight on the reputation of Boris Johnson, who was present in Westminster Abbey with his wife, Carrie, along with the other surviving prime ministers of Queen Elizabeth’s reign.

But the real worth of the archbishop’s words was as a straightforward injunction to his majesty’s ministers and other politicians to emulate the Queen’s example of service and of a temperate demeanour.

Even by the usual roughhouse standards of politics, the last decade or so has been difficult – and traumatic. After the financial crisis came the “age of austerity”, then the Scottish referendum on independence, then Brexit, and now the cost of living crisis – to name just the bigger dislocations. As we now reflect, the monarchy provided the nation with something of an anchor, and the Queen’s diamond and platinum jubilees were joyful reminders of the strength of her role as head of the nation.

Brexit has spawned “cluster bombs” of parallel social and economic controversies: the so-called culture wars. These are now overlaid onto more traditional class-based divisions and political affiliations to create an ever more fractious, kaleidoscopically divided society. As the cost of living crisis has intensified, and inflation and industrial action become a feature of national life, strife has spread into the industrial sphere.

It is indeed the cost of living crisis that will present the greatest challenge to the nation and the monarchy in the coming years.

It would be nice to think that the spirit of Archbishop Welby’s words – and the Queen’s example – would induce a kinder, gentler politics; one where the idea that we have more in

common than that which divides us actually makes some difference to public discourse. That was often the substance behind Queen Elizabeth's broadcasts to the nation in hard times.

Yet the reality is that such goodwill quickly evaporates when politics as usual is resumed. The next few months will certainly see Liz Truss's embattled government trying to cling to power, and the opposition parties doing their best to dislodge it. No surprises there.

In such divided times, King Charles will be faced with challenges sometimes even greater than those his mother had to contend with, not forgetting that the transcendent crisis of our times, the climate emergency, has hardly disappeared. He will be attacked for being "political", and will need to take care not to be drawn into party politics. For some, even expressions of compassion or concern from him will be seized upon and twisted. His will be a treacherous path.

Behind the scenes, in quiet audiences with political leaders – in nuanced, very carefully weighted public interventions – the King can follow the exemplary lead of his mother to remind the politicians of their own responsibilities, and the dangers and costs of national division.

In the familiar formula laid down by the constitutional scholar Walter Bagehot in the 19th century, King Charles has the right "to be consulted, to encourage and to warn". He has all of his training and the example of his mother to draw upon. We wish him well.

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‘Few leaders have received such an outpouring of love’

Second Elizabethan age ends with three generations of royals in Westminster Abbey before a moving ceremony at Windsor



King Charles and the Queen Consort at the committal service for Queen Elizabeth II at St George's Chapel, Windsor (AP)

ANDREW WOODCOCK

After 70 years, the final curtain was brought down yesterday on the second Elizabethan age as the Queen was laid to rest alongside husband Philip in her favourite home, Windsor Castle.

An astonishing day of pageantry and processions saw grieving King Charles III joined by monarchs and presidents from around the world as well as the upper echelons of British society in a heartfelt farewell to the UK's longest-reigning sovereign.

Three generations of royals were united in sorrow as they honoured the service of a queen and remembered the love of a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother known to the youngest in her family as “Gan-gan”.

Westminster Abbey witnessed a gathering perhaps unique in world history, with a congregation of more than 2,000 including Liz Truss and every living former prime minister, US president Joe Biden and scores of world leaders for a televised state funeral watched by hundreds of millions worldwide.



The royal family stand in front of the Queen's coffin in Westminster Abbey (Getty)

In an atmosphere of deep solemnity and barely suppressed emotion, the Queen's nine-year-old great-grandson Prince George, now second in line to the throne, could be seen wiping away a tear.

And later, the coffin of Elizabeth II was brought home to Windsor for a more intimate committal service of around 800 close family, friends and retainers in St George's Chapel.

Finally, a private burial service in the castle's King George VI Memorial Chapel was reserved for the King and members of the royal family, finally alone with their memories away from the public and TV cameras.

Earlier, King Charles and siblings Anne, Andrew and Edward had paid very public tribute to their mother, walking slowly behind her coffin through the streets of her capital, followed by the princes William and Harry.



Tearful crowds lined the route of the funeral procession (PA)

Crowds totalling hundreds of thousands lined the route from the abbey past Buckingham Palace to the Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner, where the Queen's coffin was transferred to the state hearse for her final journey by road to Windsor.

And outside the castle, tens of thousands more gathered for the stately procession led by pipers and military bands down the Long Walk, the hearse strewn with flowers cast from the roadside by well-wishers.

In his sermon at the abbey, the archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby reminded the congregation of Elizabeth's promise as a young woman to dedicate her whole life to the nation and Commonwealth.

"Rarely has such a promise been so well kept," said the archbishop. "She was joyful, present to so many, touching a multitude of lives. People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases, those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are forgotten."



A sombre King Charles salutes as he departs Wellington Arch (Reuters)

“The grief of this day – felt not only by the late Queen’s family but all round the nation, Commonwealth and world – arises from her abundant life and loving service, now gone from us.”

At the end of 10 remarkable days of national mourning since her death on 8 September, the archbishop said: “Few leaders have received the outpouring of love that we have seen.”

The archbishop said he knew that the new King shared “the same sense of service and duty” as his mother. And to the grieving royals, he quoted the Queen’s consoling message during the Covid pandemic: “We will meet again.”

As the hour-long ceremony drew to an end, the nation fell quiet as the sounding of the “Last Post” heralded a two-minute silence within Westminster Abbey and across the United Kingdom.



**Princes William and Harry mourn their grandmother
(Pool/AFP/Getty)**

Charles, his sombre face bearing the signs of deep sorrow and heavy responsibility, followed the coffin out of an abbey still resounding from thousands of voices singing “God Save the King” and a lone bagpiper playing a final lament.

After lying in state in Westminster Hall for four days as hundreds of thousands of people filed past to pay their respects, the Queen’s coffin was lifted from its catafalque shortly after 10.30am by a bearer party from 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and placed on the state gun carriage of the Royal Navy.

The gun carriage was removed from active service in 1901 for the funeral of Queen Victoria and has since borne the bodies of kings Edward VII, George V and George VI as well as Sir Winston Churchill and Lord Mountbatten.

It was hauled by 142 Royal Navy sailors in procession to Westminster Abbey, with King Charles, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and Earl of Wessex following on foot. Princes William and Harry walked side by side behind them, their faces set in solemnity, the Duke of Sussex in civilian dress to reflect his status as a non-working royal.



Kate, Princess of Wales, sits in a car following behind the coffin being carried along The Mall (AP)

Prince Andrew – who was denied the right to wear military uniform like his siblings because of the disgrace of his association with Jeffrey Epstein – was visibly fighting to hold back tears.

Joining the procession in the abbey – where the Queen was married in 1947 and crowned in 1953 – were the Queen Consort, the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Sussex and royal great-grandchildren including George and his seven-year-old sister Charlotte.

Atop the coffin was a wreath with flowers from the gardens of Buckingham Place, Clarence House and Highgrove House bearing a message from the new king: “In loving and devoted memory, Charles R.”

Among those present were scores of world and Commonwealth leaders, including Mr Biden, France’s Emmanuel Macron, Canada’s Justin Trudeau, Australian PM Anthony Albanese and New Zealand’s Jacinda Ardern. Most had arrived at the abbey by shuttle bus to reduce security risks.



Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, wipes away tears during Queen's funeral (Tim Rooke/Shutterstock)

At the end of the service, the coffin was raised again onto the gun carriage for a further procession through the streets of London, lined by members of all three military services with arms reversed as a sign of mourning.

As a gun salute was fired in Hyde Park and Big Ben tolled at minute intervals, the senior royals again followed the coffin on foot, with Camilla, Kate and Meghan travelling behind by car.

Enormous crowds massed along Whitehall, The Mall and Constitution Hill, some weeping, some bowing their heads or raising their mobile phones as the cortege passed by, some breaking into applause on sight of the coffin.



**Prince George and Princess Charlotte follow the Queen's
hearse to Windsor (PA)**

Sami Fisk, a 21-year-old student from Clitheroe, came to London with his mum Naima to see the Queen's lying-in-state on Sunday, before watching the coffin pass along Whitehall.

"What's amazing is the feeling of unity," he told *The Independent*. "To feel united with so many different kinds of people – people of all ages, all colours, all religions, from all over the country, from all over the world – that's very unusual. And that's what the Queen represents."

Vernon Bartley, a 51-year-old bricklayer from Croydon, said he became "very emotional" when the Queen's coffin passed, comparing it to saying goodbye to a family member.



**The State Gun Carriage carries the Queen's coffin as it
leaves Westminster Abbey (PA)**

"I look on her as a godmother, so I had to say goodbye," he said. "When I was growing up in Jamaica, it was a dream of mine to come to Great Britain. When I came here at 22, I saw the Queen as part of my extended family across the Commonwealth. So it doesn't surprise me the way people have come together today."

Thousands arrived in central London too late to get a spot along the procession route. Some struggled desperately to catch a glimpse of the funeral cortege, cutting holes in netting, clambering up railings and pressing themselves into holly bushes along the edge of Hyde Park.

At Windsor, Dean David Conner conducted the committal service in a chapel founded in the 14th century by Elizabeth II's ancestor Edward III and the site of royal funerals dating back to Edward IV in 1483.

Paying his final respects to the late Queen, the dean said: "In the midst of our rapidly changing and frequently troubled world, her calm and dignified presence has given us confidence to face the future as she did, with courage and with hope."



The coffin is carried into St George's Chapel (PA)

At the conclusion of the service, the instruments of state received by Elizabeth on her coronation in 1953 – the orb, sceptre and imperial state crown – were removed from her coffin and placed by the dean on the chapel's altar.

King Charles placed the Queen's Company camp colour flag of the Grenadier Guards on the coffin. And the Lord Chamberlain, former MI5 chief Lord Parker of Minsmere, broke his wand of office and placed the pieces alongside it to mark the end of his duty as most senior official of the monarch's household.

Both flag and broken wand remained on the coffin, along with the royal standard, as it was lowered into the royal vault.

Elizabeth II was laid to rest alongside the Duke of Edinburgh in the King George VI Memorial Chapel, which also contains the mortal remains of her parents George VI and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and her sister Margaret.

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Pageantry at its very best



Lots of nations do ceremonial well, but few have the same variety of archaic dress and uniform as the British (AP)

SEAN O'GRADY

When Elizabeth II became Queen in February 1952, her grandmother – the stern Queen Mary, widow of George V – wrote to her with some queenly advice. “Remember,” she said, “that life is made up of loyalty: loyalty to your friends; loyalty to things beautiful and good; loyalty to the country in which you live; and, above all, for this holds all other loyalties together, loyalty to God.”

Now, having served almost beyond what her physical strength would allow, the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey was a chance for the nation, the Commonwealth and most of the world there represented to give thanks and praise for the loyal service of a gentle Christian soul.

The abbey that married her, that crowned her – and where she took those sacred vows of literal life-long service – has now befittingly commemorated her. A quarter-century ago, Diana's funeral was held here – a moment of danger for the House of Windsor.



The tradition of the monarch's children and immediate family following on foot behind the coffin provided a counterpoint (Reuters)

The address by Charles, Earl Spencer, sent a thunderous wave of applause through the abbey and (metaphorically) around the world. His words seemed timeless – and darkly portentous: “I would like to end by thanking God for the small mercies he has shown us at this dreadful time. For taking Diana at her most beautiful and radiant and when she had joy in her private life.

“Above all, we give thanks for the life of a woman I am so proud to be able to call my sister, the unique, the complex, the extraordinary and irreplaceable Diana; whose beauty, both internal and external, will never be extinguished from our minds.” Now, sadly, the memory of Diana is fading.

Camilla is Queen Consort and King Charles III is popular – and not least because of the steadying influence of the Queen. From

the perspective of today, it was the greatest evidence of Elizabeth II's ability to get things right, even after mistakes.



Six former prime ministers and their partners arrive at Westminster Abbey (Getty)

The eyes of a global audience were centred on her in the abbey, just as they were for happier occasions: the coronation in June 1953, which, for many British families, was their first experience of television. Then – as now, too – there was a rare assemblage of emperors, kings, princes, dukes, presidents, chancellors and prime ministers to witness the proceedings. As the old saying goes, the crowned heads of Europe – and as far away as Japan and Brunei – paid their tribute. The golden crosses of the

dignitaries of the established Church were joined by leaders of every faith.

Conducted in this near 1,000-year-old abbey, the service was a dazzling pageantry of music and poetry. One of the striking features of all the formal obsequies in recent days across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has been the care with which music and readings have been chosen – and the precision of the ceremonial.

The service in the abbey was no exception to this rule. Much of it was of her own choosing, such as the parting and winsomely beautiful lament “Sleep, Dearie, Sleep”, delivered by the Queen’s piper, Warrant Officer Class 1 (Pipe Major) Paul Burns, an especially poignant moment.



Pall bearers carry the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II into St George's Chapel in Windsor (Getty)

Elizabeth also chose psalms and hymns that recalled the funeral of her mother in 2002, and that echoed her wedding to Philip, almost 75 years ago: Ralph Vaughan Williams, Edward Elgar, John Donne, Henry Purcell, Charles Wesley, Johann Sebastian Bach, the Book of Common Prayer, the Bible. “All things beautiful and good”, indeed.

Unusually, the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, broke away a little from the routine platitudes when he remarked that: “In all cases, those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.” It was perhaps just as well that the television cameras didn’t, at that point, pan to Boris Johnson or Jair Bolsonaro.

Black may be the colour for mourning, but ceremonial London could scarcely have been more vibrant. There was even a rainbow over London as dawn broke, a kind of metaphor for how the Queen’s bright smile used to break the ice for the most nervous of her many visitors and guests.

The lively flags of the Commonwealth nations, of the Overseas Territories and countless union jacks brightened a mercifully dry day, with Big Ben sounding a periodic note of solemnity, occasionally accompanied by the clattering of hooves. The marching brass bands, the massed pipes and the muffled drums played tunes that were alternately solemn and breezy, appropriately for an event that was itself alternately sad, grim and celebratory.



Liz Truss reads the second lesson, from John 14, during the funeral at Westminster Abbey (Getty)

The processions were colourful and designed to awe. The tradition of the monarch's children and immediate family following on foot behind the coffin provided a counterpoint, grounding them on the same level as the people camped along the route. You'd not call it egalitarian, but the King was there, walking down the street; not high and mighty on horseback or obscured by bulletproof glass – but as his mother's son, chief mourner.

Lots of nations do ceremonial well, but few have the same variety of archaic dress and uniform as the British manage. The glittering imperial state crown, orb and sceptre atop a coffin draped in the royal standard, carried on the Royal Navy state funeral gun carriage with 142 ratings pulling it along – these are impressive and unusual procedures for a head of state.

There were Canadian Mounties, Beefeaters and buglers, bearskins and archers, Blues and Royals, ostrich plumes, scarlet tunics and tabards. It was gloriously Ruritanian, the sights and sounds strongly reminiscent of the funeral rites of Victoria in 1901 (though the British armed forces are much denuded from those truly imperial times).



‘Those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten’ (Getty)

There wasn't much modernisation going on – a better representation for females, and a delegation of NHS Covid heroes accompanying veterans were small concessions to change.

Generally, the admittedly resplendent spectacle did nothing to dispel the feeling that the British are so proud of their past that they prefer to live in it. Yet, it was also a reminder that a constitutional hereditary monarchy, with all its exquisitely archaic rituals, can help stabilise a country undergoing rapid social and economic transformation – as did Britain after 1952.

Twice this year, the Queen has brought the nation together. It seems much longer ago, but it's only three months since the platinum jubilee gave the UK another welcome opportunity to take stock of its situation, have a party, and say thank you to a 96-year-old great-grandma.



The Queen's coffin at the Long Walk, on the last leg of its journey towards Windsor Castle and its final resting place (Shutterstock)

As always, though not often present, the Queen was the obvious star of the jubilee, her valedictory performance with Paddington Bear so affectionately remembered, perhaps surpassing her memorable scenes with James Bond at the 2012 London Olympics. Now, at Westminster Abbey and at Windsor later, Elizabeth II is once again the centre of global attention, for the final curtain.

The passing of one monarch means little politically. King Charles III will no doubt try as hard as his mother to be head of the nation – and reflect back to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth the values that, respectively, bind them together.

In her first televised Christmas Day message, in 1957, Elizabeth II popped up in the nation's living rooms to declare: "In the old days the monarch led his soldiers on the battlefield and his leadership at all times was close and personal. Today things are very different. I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice; but I can do something else, I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."



The royal family attend the Committal Service held at St George's Chapel (AP)

She was right. At a moment such as this, when the monarchy looms so large, it should again be remembered that the new King cannot solve our cost of living crisis; nor prevent the break-up of the union, nor make wars end. We ought not, even as we reflect on the distinguished service of Elizabeth II, delude

ourselves about the significance of the moment – but something intangible has been lost in this past week or so; what the diplomats call “soft power”. Soft, and elegant with it.

For all the quiet, unspoken hopes nurtured for some post-Brexit national reconciliation, the resilient spirit of the Queen and the expectations for a new reign, there is a feeling that the passing of the sovereign superstar Elizabeth II leaves a nation somewhat denuded. We’ll miss her, and her unceasing loyalty to an ideal of Britain.

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‘I cried buckets’: Thousands line streets to say farewell

London resplendent for sombre and spectacular goodbye



United in grief: mourners watch the funeral service on a screen in Hyde Park (AFP/Getty)

COLIN DRURY
IN WESTMINSTER

As the coffin went past, many couldn't hold back tears, the reality of the day finally kicking in.

Thousands of mourners had been lining the streets for hours – some, in fact, for days – for the Queen’s funeral procession through London yesterday morning. And when the moment came – when she was pulled past them in an oak coffin on the state gun carriage of the Royal Navy by 142 sailors – they were unable to stop their emotions showing.

“I was crying buckets,” said Linda McQuaid, a 66-year-old nurse who had camped out on the Mall for two days to see the moment. “There were tissues being passed up and down the line, people holding each other, struck by it all. I still don’t think anyone could believe what they were seeing, that this was the last goodbye.”



The pomp and pageantry soothed mourners as they paid their final respects to the Queen (PA)

Yet others found reason to be cheerful. The pomp and the pageantry was, they said, a celebration of all that was good about Britain. “You cannot feel too down for too long when you are witnessing something like that,” said Heather Savage, a 52-year-old hospital worker who had also camped out.

This was the country’s final farewell to Elizabeth II after 10 days of national mourning.

And while the Westminster Abbey service and the procession to Wellington Arch that followed lasted barely three hours, it will – the crowds here agreed – be talked about for centuries to come. This, one noted, is what witnessing history feels like.

It was sombre, yes, but spectacular too; both black-tie respectful yet also resplendent with reds and golds, blues and greens.



The Queen's coffin is carried to Westminster Abbey (PA)

“It’s a privilege to have lived through her reign,” said one mourner, Fiona Bearcroft, a benefits worker who had travelled from Yeovil with her mother Doreen and daughter Eleanor to be here. “After years of service, it is the least we can do to come and pay our respect.”

Anticipation had been swelling in the capital since first light. Indeed, strictly speaking, it had been swelling since before that with thousands of people camping out on the Mall to ensure they got a front row view of proceedings.

The crowds built all morning. By 8am Westminster Bridge was all but unpassable, while Horse Guards Parade was pretty much at capacity. The multitudes jostled good-naturedly for space and queued patiently for coffees and toilets. As helicopters patrolled the skies – and the occasional diplomatic limousine drove through fenced-off roads – people spoke of feeling a compulsion to pay their last respects to the Queen.



The spectacular scene on the Mall (Reuters)

But, for many, it was perhaps only when the broadcast of the service started playing on those loud speakers at 11am that the true enormity of the day really took hold. In Westminster, along Whitehall and the Mall, and in Hyde Park, silence fell. Heads were bowed – and seemed to stay that way throughout. When the Archbishop of Canterbury reminded the assembled listeners of the Queen’s pivotal role during the Covid-19 pandemic – her famous declaration that “we will meet again” – many in the crowd were already wobbling.

When the two-minute silence was called at 11.55am, one could have heard – save for the occasional baby cry – a pin drop.

And then – slowly, slowly, to the sound of distant gunfire being fired once a minute at Hyde Park – came that procession, from the abbey, up Whitehall, down the Mall and along Constitution Hill to Wellington Arch.

Its arrival could be heard before it was seen. The sounds of Beethoven and Mendelssohn – beaten out by some 200 military musicians – drifted up the Mall, like the sound of, well, a distant army getting closer. And then, led by a mounted unit from the Metropolitan Police and the red-jacketed Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the mile-long procession of 2,000 people came into view.



Mall goers listen to the funeral broadcast (PA)

Army, navy and air force detachments marched past. Representatives of Commonwealth forces strode along. Gurkhas, George Cross recipients and members of the royal household were all present.

And then, a buzz of anticipation. Pulled on the state gun carriage and gloriously draped in the royal standard, came the coffin itself. Atop was the imperial state crown, orb and sceptre. Several people threw flowers at it. Several more – inevitably – held mobiles. The press corp of photographers smashed their camera buttons.

Behind came the Queen's four children – King Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward – and then her grandchildren, Prince William, Prince Harry and Peter Phillips. All looked crestfallen. Further to the rear were royal cars bearing the Princess of Wales and the Queen Consort. As they passed down the Mall, the sun broke from the morning's grey clouds. Even the weather, it seemed, wanted to honour the moment. The imperial state crown glistened in the sun.



Mourners clap during the funeral procession (Reuters)

“So emotional,” said Hayley O’Hare, an account manager who had travelled down from Manchester with her sister and their children. “There were a lot of people around me with tears in their eyes, and I was close myself. It’s just so sad to think we won’t see her again.”

Yet the pomp and pageantry of the day – the sheer ceremonial might of the British state – was a reason for cheer, she said. “There are so few countries in the world who could organise something like this,” the 44-year-old reckoned. “That’s something to be proud of.”

The procession continued on to Wellington Arch, where the coffin was placed in the state hearse for the Queen’s final journey to Windsor.

There, a little more than 70 years after she ascended to the throne, she will be buried as Britain’s longest-serving monarch; her Elizabethan Age now past – but never to be forgotten.

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The King's urgent task must be to reshape the monarchy



The institution will need to change under King Charles's reign as radically as it did under that of his mother (Reuters)

ANTHONY SELDON

The 11 days since the Queen's death have changed everything. Before it, the monarchy appeared to be on the slide. Scandals, squabbles and vanity parades played their part. Public support for the institution had fallen from 75 per cent to 62 per cent over the previous 10 years, according to YouGov. Among the young, barely a third supported it.

Public mourning and the ceremonies attached to it, which we saw so stunningly performed at Westminster Abbey and St George's, Windsor, can distort rational thought. After a month or two, normality may reassert itself, and the downward trend in support might continue with King Charles III on the throne. I doubt it, though, especially if the head of state and the head of government – the King and Liz Truss respectively – forge a relationship that could be the making of both of them, and secure a new 21st-century contract between crown and nation.

It is an uncomfortable truth for republicans that, while democracy is under threat globally, not least in the United States at the hands of Donald Trump and his acolytes, the presence of a monarchy has provided both stability and underpinning for democracy in Britain, as it has in some other European countries. Replacing a hereditary head of state with one who is elected, and partisan, can unsettle national cohesion and political stability. Republicans should be careful what they wish for.

Charles has urgent work on his hands as he resculpts the monarchy for the next few decades. It will need to change under his reign as radically as it did under that of his mother, Elizabeth II. Getting the barnacles off the boat must happen quickly.



The monarchy must be slimmed down, and it must be seen to be proportionate (AFP/Getty)

Barnacle 1: the monarchy must slim down and be seen to be proportionate. A delicate balance is needed: if it is cut back too

deeply, not least with royal premises being required in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the essential work and traditions of the monarchy could be lost.

Barnacle 2: the new King must be immediately and emphatically clear with his family what behaviour is acceptable and what is not. The late Queen was the perfect exemplar of the servant-leader – as King Charles, with Camilla by his side, will be. Edward VII as Prince of Wales, the deplorable Edward VIII, and the lost soul Princess Margaret remind us how badly members of the royal family can go wrong when entitlement seeps into their bones.

Prince Andrew was not set clear enough guidelines – or if he was, he ignored them. King Charles must be frank with him, as he must with Prince Harry and Meghan, who teeter on the brink. Hard though it will be for King Charles as Harry's father, the Sussexes must keep their distance until they learn that the monarchy will only survive if the royals display humility, service and discretion. Back in the boat, they could do immeasurable good in Britain and the rest of the world, utterly eclipsing anything they might achieve on the outside.

Barnacle 3: ditch the political and the partisan. Since he became King, Charles's actions have given every indication that he realises he must be above party politics. There will be moments, when he is tired or off guard, when a mumbled half sentence or action could reverberate around the nation and the world, undermining all his good work and intentions. The Queen was unattackable. Critics will be circling King Charles, waiting to pounce.

Removing the barnacles might float the boat, but it won't propel it forward through the troubled waters ahead. It needs to be far more than what historian Frank Prochaska described as the "welfare monarchy" – an institution that travels the country and the Commonwealth, supporting good causes and affirming worthy deeds. This is necessary, but not sufficient, for the monarchy under King Charles to thrive.

The King needs to build a new model of a “custodian monarchy”. The Queen had 15 prime ministers: who knows how many King Charles will have? The job of the prime minister – like the chief executive of a company, the vice-chancellor of a university, or a school headteacher – is to achieve his or her personal objectives, which may differ from the long-term interests of the institution (and often do).

The board, above all in the person of the chair, represents the long-term continuity and flourishing of the organisation. The chair upholds its history, fabric and traditions, caring for its interests long into the future – a timeframe far beyond the next general election, which is always only as far as any prime minister can see into the future. The monarch is more than commander-in-chief in name: no soldier dies with the name of the prime minister on their lips.



The Queen was the perfect exemplar of the servant-leader, as Charles, with Camilla by his side, will be (AFP/Getty)

Truss will bring her own perspective to meetings with the new King. She is deeply concerned about the cost of living, fuel prices, the state of the economy, and the NHS. Sovereignty rightly lies with our politicians, specifically the “king” in parliament. No prime minister is directly chosen, and, as we saw with Truss – elected this month by a minority of the party members eligible to vote for her – nor are they always the favourite of Conservative MPs. She clearly has the legitimacy to

take critical decisions, but the short-term and partisan interest will always loom large in her mind.

The flip side of the hereditary monarch is precisely that it does not have to seek short-term popularity. Fortunately for the country, King Charles has form in matters far beyond the immediate electoral cycle: the state of the physical and built environment; the flourishing of local communities; arts and crafts; the vitality of our cultural institutions; mental health; the centrality of Christianity and respect for all faiths; and the holistic education of every child beyond the exam and test results beloved by governments.

When the Queen ascended the throne in 1952, the BBC was the only broadcaster, and the continuity of the United Kingdom was not in question. Now, national cohesion is challenged by a multiplicity of broadcast outlets, many offering partisan viewpoints, and the future of Scotland and Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom are very much in contention.

A flourishing partnership between Truss and King Charles would set the tone for the future relationship between prime minister and monarch, and would drive change for as long as the new King may reign.

Sir Anthony Seldon is a former headteacher and university vice-chancellor, a historian, writer and commentator. He co-founded the Institute for Contemporary British History and Action for Happiness

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‘I wanted to be among other people who felt the same’

Thousands – including many who camped overnight – line Long Walk at Windsor to watch the Queen’s final journey



Mourners watch the funeral procession travel to Windsor Castle yesterday (Getty)

SIMON MURPHY

IN WINDSOR

It may have only lasted a matter of minutes but as the Queen’s coffin made its last journey up the final stretch of the Long Walk

to Windsor Castle, it was a moment that captured a lifetime of respect.

Among the sombre watching crowd, applause broke out in tribute to Britain's longest-serving monarch as the procession passed through. Others along the tree-lined avenue simply watched in silence, taking it all in.

Children were held high on shoulders, a sea of smartphones were raised into the air by those recording a piece of history, before Queen Elizabeth II was taken to her final resting place inside the castle's chapel.

There, after the morning's state funeral at Westminster Abbey, a 4pm committal service was held at St George's Chapel. A private burial service later took place at 7.30pm for members of the royal family, including King Charles.

Some among the thousands gathered at Windsor Castle took their spots as early as Sunday. They included Sandra Woodjetts, 72, from Newbury, and her daughter, Nicky Fowler, 49, who arrived at 10pm to secure a prized view at the top of the Long Walk.

"To be honest with you, we have never, ever been to any [royal] event, whether it was a wedding, funeral," Fowler explained, adding: "With the Queen passing ... it meant so much to us to actually ... make that effort, let's do this because this is a once in a lifetime [moment]."

"We were not giving those up for anything, seriously," she added, referencing their front row position. Armed with camping chairs, the pair sacrificed sleep to be there.



'It meant so much to us': Nicky Fowler and her mother Sandra Woodjetts (Simon Murphy/The Independent)

It was not their first outing to pay tribute. They had queued for about eight hours to see the Queen lying in state in Westminster, reaching the front early on Friday.

Also among the Windsor crowd were three friends who travelled up from Dorset in the morning. Explaining why, Lisa Jackson, 53 – who said she is not a royalist – told *The Independent*: “I went to London on Friday, I just wanted to be part of the atmosphere and I love the Queen. And I thought 70 years is amazing, London was great, and I just thought it would be nice to be here on the Monday and ... be involved.”

Claire Cooper, 46, said: “Obviously, I was going to watch the funeral at home but I just thought, this is the last chance you’ve

actually got to pay your respects and I'd wanted to do it in person rather than just sitting at home in my lounge."

She added: "I wouldn't say I'm a complete royalist but she's still our Queen. I just wanted to ... say that final goodbye."

The Queen's death had an unexpected impact on Ms Cooper. She said: "When I found out she passed, I'm not really an emotional person either, but I did cry and I felt a bit like, 'why am I crying, I didn't even know her?'"

Unlike her friends, Sally Yates-Webber would describe herself as a royalist. "But I come from a long line of forces," the 46-year-old said, explaining she has been brought up with "serving the Queen and country".

She said the Queen has been "someone to look up to" and "been there throughout", adding: "She was ... my grandparents' Queen, my parents' Queen, my Queen and now my son's."



The royal corgis await the cortege (Reuters)

Those watching events on one of the big screens lining the Long Walk yesterday afternoon included Justine Grant and Deborah Thomas from nearby Ascot.

Thomas, a company director, said: "I had a sort of real calling to come here and I'm not sure if it was because my mother was a massive royalist. I was born in Windsor, I could see the castle from my bedroom window and my mother passed away in

September, a year ago ... so I feel like I'm doing it for her because she was such a royalist and I am a royalist as well."

Her mother was, she said, the same age as the late monarch, adding: "I have this real love of the Queen and I just felt the need to come here and be surrounded by other people that feel the same."

Grant, 52, a British Airways cabin crew member, said: "I just wanted to pay my respects. I felt it was my duty as a citizen ... we have seen her a lot locally as part of the community and I hold her in really high regard and I just wanted to say thank you for all that she did for the country."

Elsewhere in the crowd were married couple Katie and Jonathan Tooke. The pair, from Sale, Greater Manchester, have a picture of the late monarch in the hallway of their home and even a cardboard cut-out of her in the kitchen.

Ms Tooke, 49, a police officer who formerly worked in the prison service, said: "I always see the Queen as my boss, I've worked for her nearly 30 years so I just thought it was important to see her, either in London or here."

She added: "I was always proud to wear the crown on my shoulder ... just admired her as a person, I suppose."



Comfort food: Teresa Yates with her leftover marmalade sandwiches (Simon Murphy/The Independent)

Mr Tooke, 51 — a HGV driver who previously served in the armed forces for 10 years in the Parachute Regiment and worked in the prison service for 15 years — said he and his wife were royalists, adding that “for us to be sat at home ... would have been ridiculous, so we had to do something”.

Later, as the crowd thinned out after the committal service ended, Teresa Yates, 57, from Oxfordshire, was handing out leftover marmalade sandwiches. “I haven’t eaten as much as I anticipated, haven’t had time, I’ve been too busy,” she said.

She, too, was one of those who stayed overnight on the Long Walk. “We got here at 12 o’clock yesterday lunchtime,” Yates said, explaining that she came with a fellow mourner she met in Windsor only days ago. “Strangely enough ... I came to visit

Windsor on Tuesday, and she was here on her own and I was here on my own, both emotional ... I joked and said we should watch it together and she said, lovely idea ...”

In death, as well as life, it seems, the Queen has brought people together.

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Remarkable display of soft power unifies world leaders



PMs old and new: Liz Truss, John Major and Tony Blair at the service (Getty)

JOHN RENTOUL

“Service in life; hope in death.” Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, summed up the message of the funeral. They were not just pious words: the service in Westminster Abbey brought

together world leaders in a way that few events do. It was a United Nations of shared reflection.

This was a show that did not put Britain on the world stage; it was a show for which Britain *was* the world stage, a display of the soft power of British ceremony and history. The English language and Christian religion don't unite everyone, but they are inclusive enough to bring a TV audience of billions together.

World leaders were equalised by the occasion and by the logistics of bussing them in. Hierarchy persisted, naturally. The president of the US was allowed to come in his own car, asserting the rights of the sole superpower. Sinning leaders were not invited – Afghanistan, Belarus, Myanmar, Russia, Syria and Venezuela were off the list, with Iran, Nicaragua and North Korea in the disapproval zone (ambassadors only), and China in a twilight category of its own.

Most of the leaders joined in the camaraderie of travelling by public transport. Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, said this morning that “a lot of great conversations happen on the bus”. President Ruto of Kenya shared a photo of the smiles inside his coach. Jacinda Ardern, prime minister of New Zealand, said at the weekend: “I don't think the bus warrants too much fuss.” Not too much, anyway.



Special relationship: President Biden was allowed to attend the Queen's funeral in his own car (PA)

It was like a school trip, everyone wondering who would sit next to whom, not just on the bus but in the church, only with several layers of diplomatic nightmare layered on top. “You can pretend it’s alphabetical order but it’s not,” Lord Renwick, former British ambassador to the US, said.

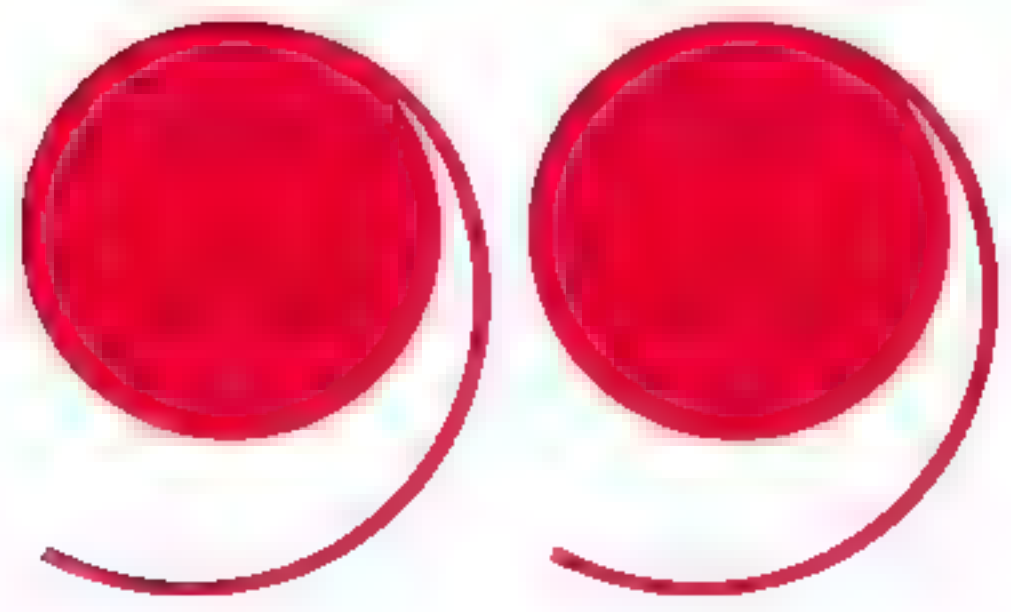
Yet its importance lay in getting so many rivalrous egos in a single space, including that of President Macron, who had managed to draw attention to himself the evening before by touring London “incognito”. One official was quoted saying that it was “the equivalent of standing up hundreds of state visits in the space of two weeks compared to what we would normally do – just a couple in a normal year”.

We have seen in the first 11 days since her death that respect for the Queen has a unifying effect on Britain; now we can appreciate how it brings the world together too.

What was so striking about watching the live-stream of the lying-in-state was that you could see how much it mattered to the people filing past, each marking the moment in their own way. Mostly a solemn bowing of the head, but there were people curtsying, waving, blowing kisses, mouthing “Thank you, Ma’am”, crossing themselves, kneeling, salaaming and namasteing. The funeral was an attempt to put all those moments together on a national scale.



It was like a school trip, everyone wondering who would sit next to whom, not just on the bus but in the church, only with several layers of diplomatic nightmare layered on top



Thus it brought Britain's political leaders together. Keir Starmer, the leader of the opposition, sat next to Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats – Davey chatting cheerfully before the service, presumably not about the pros and cons of the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies; Starmer mostly listening and looking sombre. Nicola Sturgeon, Mark Drakeford and Michelle O'Neill represented the devolved administrations (the Sinn Féin vice-president a startling reminder of a historic reconciliation).

Then came the six former prime ministers with their spouses, walking in date order, John Major to Boris Johnson, to their places. They had fought each other for the right to lead, but now they were a visual reminder of continuity. And finally the new prime minister, so new that the commentator for Channel 9 in Australia thought she “may be one of the minor royals”. But the world knew who she was when she read one of the lessons, the one in which Jesus tells his disciples, some of whom are being a bit slow on the uptake, “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.”

The funeral gave Liz Truss the chance, too, to cash in some of Britain's soft power by arranging a few discreet meetings with select world leaders – meetings that would otherwise require a

major diplomatic effort on their own. Her office helpfully listed them all, but said it would not be issuing the customary briefing on the contents of their conversations: Anthony Albanese of Australia; Ardern of New Zealand; Micheal Martin of Ireland; Trudeau of Canada; and Andrzej Duda of Poland. Joe Biden was pencilled in and then pencilled out again: she will have to see him at the UN in New York tomorrow, because he didn't have time to see her in London, even though they were in the same building for 55 minutes.



Canadian leader Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie leave Westminster Abbey after the funeral service (Getty)

Such snubs aside, the funeral was a priceless opportunity for unofficial diplomacy, giving unexpected meaning to the “Global Britain” slogan. Or not quite priceless, because the entry fee was that world leaders had to be lectured by the archbishop, who began his sermon bluntly: “The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten in death.” In case that wasn't clear enough, he went on: “Those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.”

Most of the service was about the promise of eternal life, but for those for whom this is a metaphor, it nevertheless provided a message of the enduring value of selfless leadership.

The Queen said in 1982: “I don't think you should ever leave a Christian service feeling sad.” It was a pointed remark, to Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, according to Charles Moore,

Margaret Thatcher's biographer. The Queen thought the Church of England's squeamishness about a service of thanksgiving for the Falklands war had resulted in an uneasy compromise.

But her last legacy was in that spirit: leaving Britain and the world with a funeral that sought to celebrate the virtues of unity and humble stewardship.

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‘It’s just about being there’

From pubs and airports across the world to screens set up in British cities, people everywhere tuned in to see the Queen’s funeral, write **Alastair Jamieson** and **Maryam Zakir-Hussain**



Customers watch the broadcast of Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral at the Bombardier bar, an English bar in the Place de l’Odeon in Paris (AFP/Getty)

From giant screens in city squares to British pubs around the world, thousands watched the Queen’s funeral yesterday from afar. The ceremony was broadcast live at around 125 cinemas and several cathedrals in the UK, and on a big screen in Holyrood Park in front of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. Several big screens were also set up in London’s

Hyde Park, and in the centres of Manchester, Sheffield and Newcastle, among other cities.

Passengers flying long-haul on British Airways were able to watch the service on in-flight entertainment screens, while those on the ground at Gatwick airport gathered around screens in departure lounges. In Paris, well-wishers gathered in the Bombardier, an English pub in the city's fifth arrondissement, which had opened early for the occasion.

Nathan Shreeve-Moon, 31, found himself in Paris at the time of the Queen's death because he was working on a production of *Romeo et Juliette* with choreographer Benjamin Millepied. Mr Shreeve-Moon, who is originally from the Yorkshire Dales but has lived in New York for the past 10 years, said he had wanted to watch the funeral to feel "a sense of connection" with his home country.



Members of the public watch Queen Elizabeth II's funeral on a TV screen in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh (Getty)

"I can't say I had a tremendous emotional connection to the Queen," he said. "But since I moved to the US, with the state of American politics over the past 10 years and the constant state of change and shift, I can really see the benefit of someone who was always there – someone who was apolitical." Mr Shreeve-Moon added: "The root of the tree never moved, and for that to be gone is very strange."

Betsy Herst, 63, was also among those watching the Queen's funeral from the Bombardier pub in Paris. Ms Herst said she had wanted to watch the occasion to pay her respects. "I had huge admiration for the Queen, she devoted her whole life from a very young age," she said. "She was steadfast in upholding the tradition of the role and the task put in front of her."

Spectators sat silently watching the funeral at a British bar in Majorca, while some in the UAE kept up with the ceremony while aboard the former ocean liner Queen Elizabeth II, which is now permanently docked at a port in Dubai. Lucy Davis, a UAE resident from London, had travelled from Abu Dhabi to the QE2 with her six-year-old daughter to watch the funeral. "It was quite a long way to come, but with everything that had happened over the past few days, I felt very far from home," she told the UAE news website *National News*.

In Japan, floral tributes were laid outside the British embassy in Tokyo, while mourners gathered at an English pub in Washington DC in the US to watch the funeral.



Visitors watch coverage of the funeral procession at The Queen Vic, a British pub in Washington (AP)

In Britain, many who had travelled to London resorted to watching proceedings on their mobile phones because of railway disruption. No trains could enter or leave Paddington station, in west London, from 6.30am because of damage to overhead electric wires near Hayes and Harlington station. Services run

by GWR, Heathrow Express and the Elizabeth line were expected to be disrupted for the remainder of yesterday.

Gaby Thomas, 29, who had travelled from Castle Cary, Somerset, said: “It’s just about being there. We were meant to arrive in Paddington at about 8.30am. We are still hoping to catch the end of the procession.”

Mike Brooke, 69, from Walker, Newcastle, joined the First Battalion Light Infantry in 1970 and later served with the Territorial Army. He was with members of the Joint Ex-Services Association guarding the war memorial in Old Eldon Square in Newcastle. He said: “It’s most important we gave our respects up in the North East; not a lot of people have been able to travel down to London. Old Eldon Square is very close to our hearts.”

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The Queen of Balmoral



A new photograph of the Queen Elizabeth II was released yesterday (Lichfield/Royal Family)

AISHA RIMI

The royal family released a new photograph of the Queen yesterday. The picture was taken at Balmoral, one of her favourite locations, in 1971 and shows her hiking in the moorlands surrounding the castle in Scotland.

The image was shared on social media with a caption from Shakespeare's Hamlet: "May flights of Angels sing thee to thy

rest. In loving memory of Her Majesty The Queen. 1926 - 2022.”

The quote is the same phrase King Charles III used at the end of his first TV address as the new monarch.

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Royal news in brief



The wreath on the Queen's coffin containing a note from King Charles (Reuters)

Touching note placed on top of the Queen's coffin

Flowers on the Queen's coffin included a handwritten card from Her Majesty's eldest son and successor, King Charles III. Nestled among the petals, it read simply: "In loving and devoted memory. Charles R." The coffin was draped in the royal standard, upon which the imperial state crown and a large wreath was laid. The King was responsible for helping to choose the flora that comprised the wreath, with the flowers cut from

the gardens of Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and Highgrove House.

They were chosen for their emotional significance and to symbolise key moments of the Queen's reign and included rosemary, for remembrance, and myrtle grown from a sprig taken from Her Majesty's wedding bouquet. Myrtle, an ivory flower, is thought to symbolise a happy marriage. The wreath also included English oak to symbolise the strength of love, along with pelargoniums, garden roses, autumnal hydrangea, sedum, dahlias and scabious. The chosen flowers were in shades of pink, deep burgundy, gold and white, to reflect the colours of the royal standard, and were set in a nest of English moss.

Princess and duchess wear jewellery given to them by Queen

Both the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Sussex paid subtle tribute to Queen Elizabeth II by wearing earrings gifted to them by the late monarch at her state funeral. Kate arrived at Westminster Abbey yesterday morning in a car with her two children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, and the Queen Consort, Camilla. Meanwhile, Meghan travelled with the Duke of Sussex to join the 2,000-strong congregation in celebrating the life of the Queen. The Princess of Wales wore Bahrain pearl drop earrings, which originated from the Queen's personal jewellery collection, along with a statement necklace which had also belonged to Her Majesty.

Meghan wore a pair of earrings that she received as a gift from the Queen after her marriage to Prince Harry. The duchess is frequently seen wearing the precious earrings – she was spotted in them last week during the ceremonial procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall for the Queen's lying-in-state. Camilla, Queen Consort, also chose a special piece of jewellery to wear to the funeral. Camilla wore Queen Victoria's hessian diamond jubilee brooch on her left shoulder. The heart-shaped brooch has three sapphires and was gifted to Queen Victoria from her grandchildren.

Five police officers taken unwell while on duty at funeral

Five police officers received medical attention after being taken unwell during the operation to protect the Queen's funeral. One officer, wearing full ceremonial uniform and white gloves, was carried away on a stretcher by two members of the Royal Navy before the ceremony got under way. The Metropolitan Police said the man had recovered, and that four other officers "received medical attention after being taken unwell". Two of the officers fell ill on the Mall, two on nearby Horse Guards Parade and one next to the Victoria Memorial. All have since recovered. Three military personnel also had to be assisted by colleagues after appearing to get into difficulty by Wellington Arch shortly before 2pm. One appeared to collapse to the ground after the royal family had left.

At Hyde Park Barracks another member of military personnel stumbled and was taken away by a colleague. A guard fainted last week while watching over the Queen's coffin during her lying-in-state at Westminster Hall. Some members of the public were also taken ill after gathering to watch the processions to and from the Queen's funeral in central London. St John Ambulance said yesterday afternoon it had treated 357 patients alongside the London Ambulance Service, of whom 45 had been taken to hospital. Thousands of police officers were deployed as part of the biggest security operation in the Metropolitan Police's history. Police were drawn into London from forces across the UK to bolster numbers, while shifts were extended and rest days cancelled for some officers.

Activists call on Britain to return diamond set in sceptre

The death of Queen Elizabeth II has led to renewed calls for Britain to return its colonial-era possessions, with South African activists starting an online petition to bring back a huge diamond set in the Queen's sceptre. The sovereign's sceptre with cross featured alongside the sovereign's orb and the imperial state crown on the Queen's coffin as she lay in state at Westminster Hall, and during the procession yesterday for her

state funeral. The gem in the sceptre is a piece of the world's largest known clear-cut diamond, at 530.2 carats, called the Great Star of Africa or Cullinan I. It was found in 1905 and handed over to the British royal family by South Africa's colonial authorities.

There have been previous demands for the royal family to return the precious diamond to South Africa. However, the Queen's death has triggered a fresh conversation over the legacy of the royal family along with calls for reparations from Britain for centuries of brutal colonial rule. The South African activists' petition, which calls for the diamond to be returned and placed in a South African museum, has received nearly 7,000 signatures. "The Cullinan Diamond must be returned to South Africa with immediate effect," activist Thanduxolo Sabelo told local media, adding: "The minerals of our country and other countries continue to benefit Britain at the expense of our people."

Corgis seen waiting for coffin to arrive at Windsor Castle

The royal corgis were spotted waiting for the procession carrying the Queen's coffin to reach St George's Chapel in Windsor. The Queen's beloved pets, Muick and Sandy, and one of her favourite horses, Emma, made a special poignant appearance. The young dogs – one on a red lead and one on a blue lead – were brought out into the quadrangle by two pages in red tailcoats for the arrival of the Queen's coffin. Emma, the Queen's fell pony, had greeted the procession, standing on grass in a gap in the floral tributes that lined the Long Walk, in honour of her late owner.

Sandy and Muick were gifted to the Queen by her son Prince Andrew. Muick was named after her favourite spot near Balmoral Castle. They were a source of joy and entertainment while she was staying in Windsor during lockdown, as well as when her late husband, Prince Philip, was in hospital last year. The Queen famously loved the breed and owned more than 30 corgis during her lifetime. She received her first corgi, Susan, as

a gift from her parents on her 18th birthday. The Duke and Duchess of York have now become the new owners of the corgis following the Queen's death.

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How the major TV channels covered the Queen's funeral



Huw Edwards, the voice of the moment, against the backdrop of Westminister Abbey (BBC)

NICK HILTON

“Stop all the clocks,” WH Auden famously wrote of the enormity of grief; “cut off the telephone... Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.” If Auden were writing that poem about the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, the clocks might be replaced with

“traffic” and the telephone with “central London”. For one day, Britain seemed to have ground to a halt.

In a television landscape increasingly dominated by on-demand streaming, where live “event TV” has become limited to the Euros finals and *Love Island*, yesterday we bore witness to the passing of a seminal moment in our island’s story: all the major channels devoted their scheduling to the Queen’s funeral, in a sombre, striking acknowledgement that an era was ending.

And in this wall-to-wall broadcast, the protagonists – the new King Charles, his wife Camilla, sons William and Harry, and their wives, Kate and Meghan – moved with the enforced dispassion of performers. This was grief meeting history, with the eyes of the world quite literally upon them.

I think back to my own grandmother’s funeral, and how, as teenagers, my sister and I were caught by giggles at the deacon’s extraordinarily resonant baritone. On television, the royals do not have such a luxury. They cannot give in to the confused emotions of grief, but instead have to perform a strange stoicism. As Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, observed in his sermon, their grief is something we can all comprehend. What we cannot hope to truly understand is grieving, as the archbishop put it, “in the brightest spotlight”.

At times, the most striking thing about the ceremony was its normality. A family dressed in black. Eyes wetted by the eerie quality of a sung psalm. Stifled coughs during the prayer readings. Those moments contrasted for viewers with the gilded spectacle of the occasion. Red-coated pall-bearers moved like wind-up toy soldiers, a staccato pomp that reminded us that this was no “normal” funeral (where one pall-bearer would be hungover, and another struggling with a recent back injury).

On the BBC, the indefatigable Huw Edwards anchored the coverage with his well-practised solemnity. At times, the disembodied commentary on the procession of royals, politicians and celebrities felt like the Olympic opening ceremony, or even Eurovision. On ITV, Tom Bradby and Julie

Etchingham tried to impose themselves against the reality that Edwards had become the voice of the moment.

All the presenters battled for the most reverent (possibly obsequious) tone. At times it entered the realm of the bizarre: the prince and princess, George and Charlotte, were described by Edwards as “looking immaculate”. “We’ve come to expect nothing less of these two,” his co-host, royal biographer Katie Nicholl, observed.

Live TV is a fickle beast. It doesn’t move with the mechanised precision of a pre-record. The camera lingered, at times, uncomfortably long on a set composition: waiting for the coffin to emerge from Westminster Hall, or hovering, God’s eye, above congregating masses at the Abbey. The scale of the production – and we shouldn’t forget that this was a production, with brilliant directors pulling the strings – and the seamlessness with which it was executed were unprecedented.



The Queen's coffin being carried to Westminster Abbey (PA)

In years to come, this will be reduced to a montage, those few key images burnt onto the retinas of memory. But, in the moment, there was an odd poignancy to its imperfection. When David Hoyle, the Dean of Westminster, began his address only to find a frog inconveniently resident in his throat, a watching world realised it was witnessing real people, doing their real jobs, under the enormous weight of our national narrative.

Perhaps the most extraordinary moment came when the choir sang Ralph Vaughan Williams's setting of Psalm 34, composed in 1953 for the Queen's coronation. Vaughan Williams died in 1958, ascending to that small clubhouse of great British composers of the 20th century – alongside Elgar, Holst and Britten – to become part of the great historical firmament.

That coronation, 70 years ago, was a landmark moment in British television. It was said that there were 17 viewers per TV set in the UK, and the tape was flown to the US and Canada so that it could be broadcast on the same day. And all the viewers who watched the coronation in 1953 heard this same piece of music – a reminder, simultaneously, of the great proximity and increasing distance of history.

Once the coffin was processed out of Westminster Abbey – King Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Edward and Prince Andrew following in its wake – the reins of the proceedings were handed back to the commentators. Edwards, Etchingham and co have become extremely accomplished at vamping over the past 11 days, filling the lengthy procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch with colourless factoids and titbits. The inanity of observations like – of some horses – “a sight that the late Queen would've been very touched by” reinforced a dogma that the day was about the Queen, not the broadcasters.

As the procession passed over to Windsor – with David Dimbleby and Kirsty Young presenting – grandeur gave way to something more personal. After 96 years, this was it.

All the voices on commentary, for the BBC and ITV, were tasked with explaining this moment in history. They needn't have bothered. The blanket of nervous stillness that descended on Britain yesterday for a couple of hours – punctuated only by barking dogs, crying babies and teenagers on e-scooters – perfectly told the story of a nation gripped by a piece of television history.

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India condemns violence in Leicester after 15 arrested



Police surround protesters on Belgrave Road, east Leicester, late on Saturday (Leicester Media)

RORY SULLIVAN

India has condemned the community violence that rocked Leicester over the weekend.

Police made several arrests after disturbances broke out at what the force termed “an unplanned protest” on Saturday. Fifteen people were then detained on Sunday evening in east Leicester “to deter further disorder”.

The violence came amid tension between mainly young men from the Hindu and Muslim communities in the East Midlands city.

Additional officers had been on patrol in the area in recent weeks after a number of incidents of disorder following an Asia Cup cricket match between India and Pakistan.

In a tweet yesterday, India's High Commission in the UK criticised those it claimed had attacked "the Indian community" in Leicester and had vandalised "premises and symbols of Hindu religion".

"We have strongly taken up this matter with the UK authorities and have sought immediate action against those involved in these attacks. We call on the authorities to provide protection to the affected people," it added.

The statement made no mention of allegations of wrongdoing perpetrated against the city's Muslim population.

Over the weekend, the Leicester-based Federation of Muslim Organisations (FMO) said there had been "a number of failures" to address what it called a "rise in racism and extreme ideology". Suleman Nagdi, of the FMO, told the BBC that the situation was "very alarming".

"We need calm – the disorder has to stop and it has to stop now. There are some very dissatisfied young men who have been causing havoc," he said. "We need to get the message out that this must end and try to do this through parents and grandparents talking to their sons."

Leicester mayor Sir Peter Soulsby praised the police's response to the incident and expressed confidence that the events would not be repeated. "I have talked to a lot of community leaders and they are doing what they can to bring Leicester to normal, because in Leicester, 'normal' is very good relations between people of different faiths," he said.

"They and I, while being baffled by it, are also very disturbed by it, but I think we are all very confident Leicester is resilient enough to be able to return to normal relations very soon."

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Scrapping corporation tax hike ‘will end in disaster’



Tax cuts are ‘not a magic bullet’, a leading think tank has warned Truss (Getty)

ROB MERRICK

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Liz Truss’s bid to “go for growth” by slashing taxes on big business profits has failed in the past and will fail again, a leading think tank is warning.

The plan to scrap a hike in corporation tax ignores the harsh lessons of recent history – when investment stagnated despite ultra-low rates – and is not even favoured by business leaders, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) is arguing.

Instead, it calls for a strategy stretching beyond tax to boost investment and productivity by tackling chronic problems in housing, energy, transport, skills and childcare.

“Slashing corporation tax is just a continuation of a failed race to the bottom that hasn’t delivered for the UK economy,” said George Dibb, head of the Centre for Economic Justice at the IPPR.

“Tax cuts are not a magic bullet to increase investment and growth – in fact, despite having some of the lowest levels of corporate taxation, business investment in the UK is the lowest in the G7.

“If the government were serious about boosting investment, it would be listening to businesses who want a serious economic strategy to support growth, boost innovation, and increase our low productivity.”

Friday’s mini-budget is expected to fulfil Ms Truss’s campaign pledge to axe the corporation tax hike, as one of a clutch of policies that will benefit the better off.

The levy is due to rise from 19p to 25p next April, after former chancellor Rishi Sunak reversed years of Tory economic faith by accepting the low rate was failing to fire up business investment.

The analysis by the IPPR has found that – even with the 19p rate, by far the lowest of the G7 leading economies – the UK fell behind its rivals in the investment race.

In 2019, it slipped behind Italy and Canada to have the lowest private sector investment in the G7 as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP), the left-leaning think tank said.

The following year, the UK ranked a miserable 28th out of a 31-strong group of developed countries which are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Mr Dibb added: “We’re not just falling behind the largest economies either, the UK is consistently [among] the worst performers in the OECD club of 38 developed economies.”

He criticised the belief that a government “can cut tax and deregulate its way to growth, which has failed before” – contrasting it with Joe Biden’s “whole-government” approach.

A “chop-and-change” approach – which had seen government adopt five strategies in just eight years – was also confusing businesses and undermining UK economic credibility, Mr Dibb said.

The mini-budget is also expected to see taxes cut in a string of “investment zones”, where businesses may also be able to ignore some environmental regulations.

But a near-identical policy pursued by George Osborne after 2010 – when they were called “enterprise zones” – also failed to spur growth in economically left behind areas.

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Poorest to get 63p a month from national insurance cut



Liz Truss made a Tory leadership campaign pledge to axe Boris Johnson's tax increase (PA Media)

ROB MERRICK

Britain's poorest households will gain just 63p a month from reversing the national insurance hike, a new study says – while people earning more than £100,000 will benefit the most.

Friday's mini-Budget is set to fulfil Liz Truss's campaign pledge to axe Boris Johnson's tax increase – designed to rescue the crisis-hit NHS and adult social care – also raising fears of future

funding cuts. But the analysis by the respected Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has underlined the extent to which the move will overwhelmingly be a boost for richer Britons.

The richest tenth of households, earning an average of £108,000, will save £1,800 on their annual tax bill, equivalent to £150 a month, the think tank says. In stark contrast, the poorest 10 per cent, three million people who on average earn £12,000, will save £7.66 – only 63p a month, or 14p a week. Households with the average UK income of £31,400 will save about £20 a month – while those with an income of £55,000 will save about £58 a month, almost three times that amount.

“Reversing the recent NICs [national insurance contributions] rise would tend to benefit richer households more than poorer ones, even as a share of their income,” said Tom Waters, a senior research economist at the IFS.

Tony Wilson, director of the Institute for Employment Studies, told *The Times* the plans were a “tax giveaway to relatively high earners” and risked fuelling inflation. “The worry among Bank of England and Treasury officials will be that the move is more inflationary than a more targeted subsidy or tax cut,” he said.

The 1.25 per cent rise in national insurance was implemented only in April, when it was badged as a health and social care levy, but Ms Truss argues that scrapping it can help the UK go for growth. It is among £30bn-plus of measures that will benefit the rich, including axing next year’s planned rise in corporation tax from 19p to 25p.

Kwasi Kwarteng, the new chancellor, is also expected to remove the 2014 cap on bankers’ bonuses, even as public sector workers are told to show pay restraint to keep inflation in check. He could also accelerate Rishi Sunak’s plan to cut 1p from the basic rate of income tax, which was due in 2024, in time for an expected general election that year.

The chancellor is also expected to create 12 special investment zones that could cut employer national insurance contributions for staff employed within the zones. The spending spree has triggered warnings that the Bank of England will hike interest

rates further – to curb inflation – and could require the new government to rip up its fiscal rules. They require debt to be falling as a share of national income by 2024 and no borrowing for day-to-day spending.

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Welsh first minister warns of growing threat to union



Mark Drakeford said Boris Johnson's actions added to fragility of United Kingdom (PA)

ROB MERRICK

The United Kingdom is closer to breaking up than at any time in 50 years, the first minister of Wales says – as he revealed Cardiff is making preparations for it.

Mark Drakeford warned that only the Labour Party is making the case for saving the union, accusing “bully boy” Boris Johnson of adding to its “fragility” through his actions in No 10.

Liz Truss has been accused of showing similar disrespect to Scotland and Wales, after vowing to “ignore” Nicola Sturgeon and branding Mr Drakeford a “low energy Jeremy Corbyn”.

The first minister said: “I think the risk the United Kingdom will not continue is greater today than at any time in my political lifetime. I certainly don’t think it’s inevitable.”

Speaking to a political podcast, he argued Labour, which is pushing for further devolution, is making “an offer about the United Kingdom that people would wish to buy into”.

But he warned: “We are desperately short of an articulation by any other party of a positive case for a voluntary union.”

The Welsh government has set up a constitutional commission, chaired by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, to examine how to make the union an ongoing success.

But, Mr Drakeford added: “It has a second question, which is that if the United Kingdom starts not to stay together, what are the options for Wales?

“Because the idea that Scotland leaves and everything else continues as though that hadn’t happened is clearly not plausible at all.

“We’ve never needed to do serious thinking about what the choices for Wales would be and the commission will help us to do that, but we’re having to map out that territory with a seriousness that I think just reflects the risks that we currently face.”

Mr Drakeford, who has warned against a lavish ceremony to crown the new Prince of Wales amid anger over the rushed decision to install him, also referred to his bruising battles with the last prime minister.

“Boris Johnson believed the way to save the United Kingdom was to assert muscular unionism – bully boy Britain, as you might more pejoratively put it – in which the way to secure the future of the United Kingdom was to show who was boss,” he told *The Rest is Politics* podcast

“And actually that is completely counterproductive and contributes to the fragility of the United Kingdom rather than helping it be something people choose to belong to, and want to belong to.”

However, he played down the campaign for Welsh independence, saying: “There is a growing interest in independence because of the risks to the future of the United Kingdom, that’s inevitable.

“But it would still be... not a small minority, but no more than 20 per cent or so.”

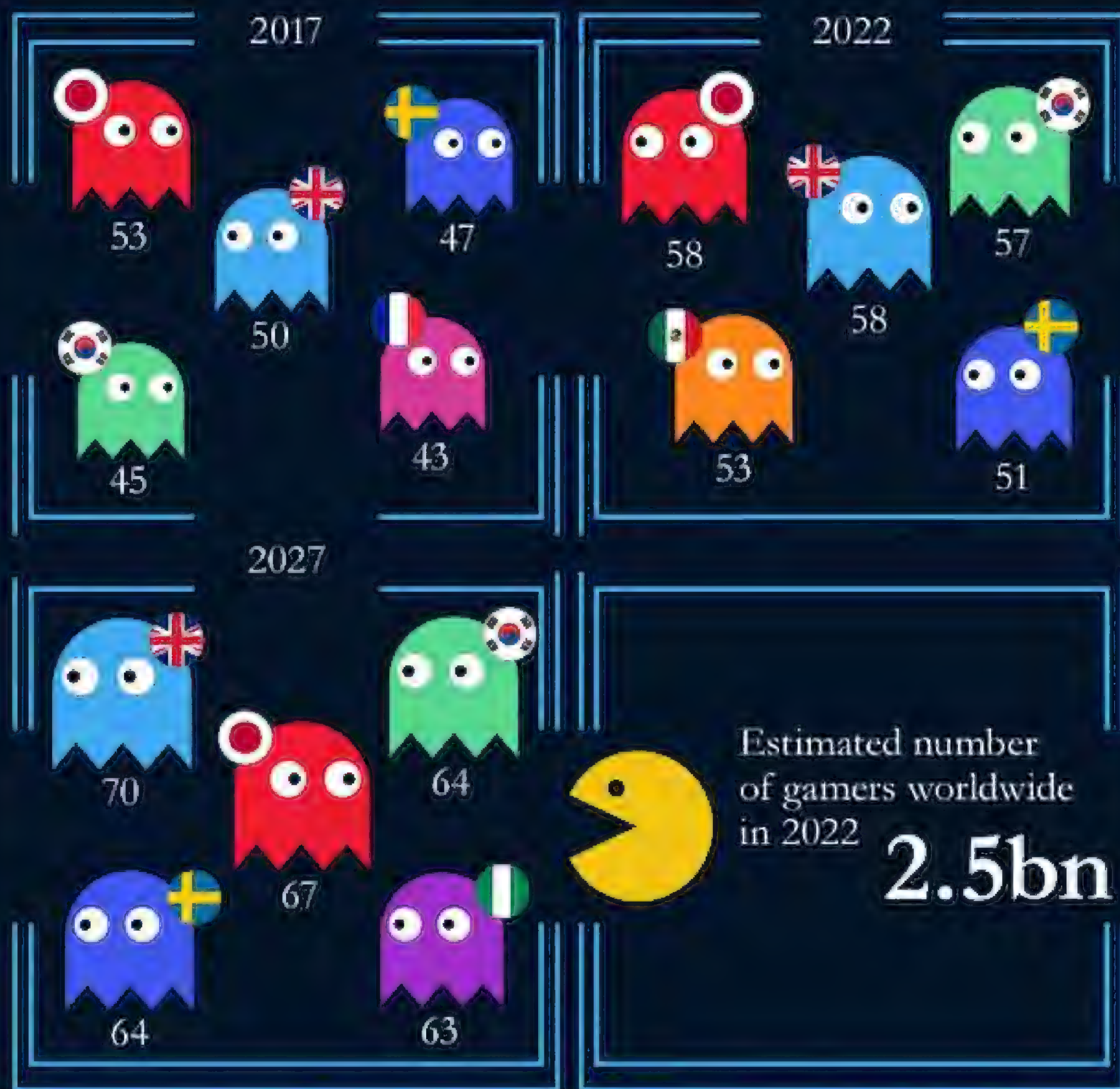
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By Numbers Gamers without frontiers

Countries with the highest estimated user penetration in the video game segment (in percentages)



Source: Statista Digital Market Outlook



Pictures of the Day



Brittany tears

A member of the marine wildlife conservation organisation Sea Shepherd throws water on a beached rorqual whale on the beach of Ploeven, northwestern France. *AFP/Getty*



Cops and robbers

Protesters try to pull out the gate leading to the Justice Palace in Lebanon's capital Beirut, demanding the release of two people involved in a bank heist the previous week. *AFP/Getty*



Bird's-eye view

Seagulls in front of a large screen displaying a broadcast from the funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth II at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. AFP/Getty



Home fires burning

Protesters burn tyres outside the Gaza City headquarters of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency, demanding that their houses destroyed during the Israel-Gaza fighting in 2014 be rebuilt. *Reuters*



At Her Majesty's service

Prime Minister Liz Truss takes her seat for the funeral service of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey. *AP*

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Home news in brief



The Cuadrilla-owned site in Little Plumptre, Lancashire, could soon be operating again (PA)

Fracking will not solve energy crisis, watchdog warns

The return of fracking will not ease the UK's energy crisis and could cause serious environmental damage, the head of a government watchdog has warned. Lord Deben, chair of the independent Climate Change Committee, urged Liz Truss to "look at the facts" – just days before she is expected to give the go-ahead to drilling for shale gas in England.

He dismissed the claim, made by some government ministers, that the soaring price of gas had created an opportunity for the UK to exploit its reserves through fracking. "The price of gas

isn't fixed by whether we get it out of British fields or the North Sea, the price of gas is set internationally," Lord Deben said. "If you're really trying to deal with the cost of living crisis, these are not the solutions," he said.

Man charged with attempted murder of police officer

A man was charged yesterday with the attempted murder of a police officer, named as PC Gerrard, who was knifed in the neck and chest in Leicester Square on Friday. Mohammed Rahman, 24, also faces one count of causing grievous bodily harm in connection with an attack on a female officer, named as PC Mulhall, who was stabbed in the arm. Rahman has also been charged with assault and two counts of threatening a person in a public place with a bladed article, as well as robbery and possession of a bladed article. Appearing at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court yesterday, the defendant spoke only to confirm his name, date of birth and address during a short hearing. Rahman, of Notting Hill, London, was remanded into custody by district judge Simon Heptonstall ahead of a further appearance at the Old Bailey on 14 October.

British man dies of sepsis while on holiday in Bulgaria

A British man has died of sepsis while on holiday in Bulgaria to celebrate his third wedding anniversary. Daniel Bowman, 32, was struck down with the condition, which killed his auntie in 2005, a week into a fortnight break with his wife Kelly, 35. He was due to be flown home last Thursday after his family fund-raised to pay for a private medical repatriation air ambulance. Bowman died alone after his wife was banned from seeing him as he lay in intensive care. *SWNS*

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World



‘It’s a lie’: Moscow denies Izyum war crimes claim

Kremlin vows to ‘defend the truth’ as mass graves uncovered



Passports recovered from a destroyed police station in Izyum, eastern Ukraine (AFP/Getty)

DAVID HARDING

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Russia has rejected allegations its forces had committed war crimes in the Ukrainian city of Izyum as a “lie”.

It was the Kremlin’s first public statement about the allegations.

Around 450 bodies – most of whom Ukraine says are civilians – were found in mass graves near Izyum after Russian troops were this month forced out of the Kharkiv region, much of which they had controlled since the first weeks of their military campaign in Ukraine.

President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that investigators at the site have found evidence of torture, including bodies with hands tied, and accused Russian troops of committing war crimes.

“Children and adults. Civilians and military. Tortured, shot, killed by shelling,” Mr Zelensky said. “Even entire families are buried there: mother, father and daughter.”

But asked yesterday about his statements, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters: “It’s the same scenario as in Bucha. It’s a lie, and of course we will defend the truth in this story.”

Over the weekend, police and forensic experts helped exhume bodies at the site.



Forensic technicians operate at the site of a mass grave in a forest on the outskirts of Izyum (AFP/Getty)

Last week, Mr Zelensky blamed Russia for the deaths and said that Vladimir Putin’s forces were “leaving death behind it everywhere and must be held responsible”.

He also invoked the names of other Ukrainian cities where authorities said retreating Russian troops left behind mass

graves of civilians. “Bucha, Mariupol, now, unfortunately, Izyum,” he said.

In April, just two months after Russia invaded Ukraine, President Putin’s troops were accused of a series of war crimes in the town of Bucha.

Officials in Ukraine said after Russian troops left the area, corpses were found in the street and some were in mass graves. There was evidence many had been bound, with gunshots to the head, and others showed signs of torture.

Mr Zelensky has accused Russia of taking part in a “genocide” against the Ukrainian people.

Moscow has also previously rejected claims that its troops had committed war crimes in Bucha.

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Russia accused of 'nuclear terrorism' after plant attack



The missiles landed just 300m from a core reactor (Reuters)

ARPAN RAI

Russian forces struck another nuclear power plant in Ukraine yesterday, officials in Ukraine have said.

The missile attack on Pivdennoukrainsk nuclear power plant in the country's southern Mykolaiv region occurred just 300m

from the reactors, officials from Ukraine's state nuclear body Energoatom said, calling the latest missile strike an act of nuclear terrorism by the Russian military.

"Today at 00.20am, the Russian army carried out a missile attack on the industrial site of the south Ukraine nuclear power plant [SUNPP]," it confirmed. "A powerful explosion occurred just 300m from the SUNPP reactors. The shock wave damaged the NPP buildings as well as over 100 windows were broken."

Visuals of the missile strike showed a large crater erupting on the horizon. One of the two photos showed a man standing in front of the crater giving a sense of the scale of the blast.

Volodymyr Zelensky also denounced the Russian attack on the Telegram app and said: "The invaders wanted to shoot again, but they forgot what a nuclear power plant is. Russia endangers the whole world. We have to stop it before it's too late."

The missile attack also knocked out one of the hydropower units of the Oleksandrivska HPP, causing it to shut down along with three high-voltage power transmission lines. The hydroelectric power plant is a part of the south Ukrainian power complex.

Officials said all three SUNPP power units are operating in a normal mode at present. No injuries and casualties have been reported among the power plant staff, Energoatom said in the statement. The Kremlin has not reacted to the reports accusing Russian forces of firing missiles on the nuclear plant.

Southern city Mykolaiv, just 435kms (270 miles) away from the Black Sea, has been bombed ferociously and struck with missiles in recent weeks by the Russian forces.

Moscow has amped up the military warfare in Ukraine with increased missile strikes in sensitive zones where nuclear facilities are situated in the last 24 hours. This has caused the top US military officials to warn the forces in Europe to be on a heightened alert fearing a strong response from Russia.

"The war is not going too well for Russia right now. So it's incumbent upon all of us to maintain high states of readiness,

alert,” US general Mark Milley, who also serves as the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said on Sunday.

In a separate offensive, Russian forces fired at least eight missiles on Zaporizhzhia city overnight.

At least eight projectiles have been fired targeting infrastructure facilities, reported *The Kyiv Independent*.

It is not immediately clear if the missile strikes caused any casualties.

The southeastern city, which has remained a critical war zone and witnessed continuous shelling from both sides, houses multiple power stations including Europe’s largest nuclear facility Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Zaporizhzhia thermal power station and Dnieper hydroelectric station.

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Belarus opposition leader, tweeted that Russia was trying to “blackmail” the world.

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Podcasts help to free man jailed for over two decades



Adnan Syed walks out of a Baltimore courthouse yesterday after being held since 1999 for the murder of his former girlfriend (Reuters)

RACHEL SHARP

Adnan Syed said he “can’t believe it’s real” as he walked out of court a free man after a Baltimore judge overturned his conviction for the 1999 murder of his former girlfriend Hae Min Lee.

Baltimore City circuit judge Melissa Phinn vacated the 41-year-old's conviction "in the interest of justice" and granted him a new trial.

Syed's shackles were removed and the judge ordered him to be released under home detention while the investigation continues into Lee's murder.

Minutes later, he was met by a roar of cheers as he walked down the steps of the courthouse and got into a waiting vehicle. Syed smiled and flashed the peace sign at his supporters but declined to make any comments.

His attorney Erica Suter told reporters that the 41-year-old was in disbelief and was looking forward to getting on with his life after spending the last 23 years behind bars for a crime he says he did not commit.

When asked what his first words were when the judge delivered the ruling, she replied: "He said he can't believe it's real."

"He's looking forward to being with his family," she added.

Baltimore City state's attorney Marilyn Mosby also spoke outside the courthouse, saying that she had asked for Syed to be granted a new trial "in the interests of fairness and justice".

"We are not yet declaring Adnan Syed is innocent but we are declaring, in the interest of fairness and justice, he is entitled to a new trial," she said. She added: "Ms Lee's family deserve closure, they deserve justice and we intend to fight for that."

Under state law, prosecutors now have 30 days to decide whether to drop the charges against Syed or to retry the case.

Ms Mosby said that prosecutors were waiting for the results of DNA testing which they hope could advance the investigation.

Before the judge issued the ruling, Lee's brother gave a statement to the court describing the toll the case is taking on his family.

Young Lee, who joined the court hearing virtually from the west Coast, said that the constant revival of the case is "killing me" as

he urged the judge to “make the right decision”.

“I’ve been living with this for like 20 plus years. Every day when I think it’s over... or it’s ended, it always comes back,” he said.

“It’s killing me. It’s really tough.”

He added that he felt “betrayed” by the prosecution, after they blindsided the family by casting doubt on Syed’s guilt – after spending more than two decades insisting he was the killer.

The ruling comes days after prosecutors in Maryland made the bombshell request for his release saying that “the state no longer has confidence in the integrity of the conviction”.

On Wednesday, Ms Mosby filed a motion asking for Syed’s conviction to be tossed, after an almost years-long investigation raised serious doubts about the case.

Ms Mosby cited doubts about the validity of cellphone tower data which was used in the original trial to place Syed at the scene of the crime. She also pointed to new information about the possible involvement of two alternate unnamed suspects.

The two suspects, who were not named because of the ongoing investigation, were both known to the initial 1999 murder investigation and were not properly ruled out or disclosed to the defence, prosecutors said in Wednesday’s court filing.

According to the court documents, one of the suspects had threatened to kill Lee around the time of her murder, saying that “he would make [Lee] disappear. He would kill her”.

Lee’s car was also found directly behind the house of one of the suspect’s family members, prosecutors said.

One of the suspects was ruled out of the case by police based on faulty polygraph tests, the documents state.

Both suspects have criminal records, with one convicted of attacking a woman in her car and the other convicted of serial rape and sexual assault.

Ms Mosby said in a statement that the two individuals now suspected in the case “may be involved individually or may be involved together”.



Adnan Syed is pictured prior to his arrest and conviction for murder (Serial)

She stopped short of saying that the state believes Syed to be innocent, instead saying that they want to ensure the true killer or killers are brought to justice – whether that turns out to be him or someone else.

“After a nearly year-long investigation reviewing the facts of this case, Syed deserves a new trial where he is adequately represented and the latest evidence can be presented,” said Ms Mosby.

While prosecutors have not named the two alternate suspects, one particular name did crop up in the *Serial* podcast which first broke the case wide open.

Ronald Lee Moore, who died by suicide in a Louisiana prison in 2008, was a convicted burglar and was also suspected in a series of other burglaries, unsolved sexual assaults and murders across Maryland. He was released from prison just 10 days before Lee’s disappearance.

Moore had been part of the original investigation but DNA found at the crime scene was not a match. The DNA also didn’t match Syed, with his attorneys saying in 2019 that his DNA was not found on any of the 12 samples from the victim’s body and car.



Hae Min Lee is pictured in her yearbook photo (Serial)

Following Moore's 2008 death, he has been tied to at least two murders of young women around the same time as Lee's slaying. In 2020, Moore was identified as the killer of 23-year-old Shawn Marie Neal who was found strangled to death in her apartment in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in 1996. In 2013, Moore was also named as the sole suspect in the 1999 murder of Annelise Hyang Suk Lee in Baltimore.

It is not clear if Moore is one of the two alternate suspects now suspected in Lee's murder.

However, the move to overturn Syed's murder conviction comes just a few months after state prosecutors and Syed's defence attorneys filed a request for Lee's clothing to be tested using new DNA technology.

A joint request for touch DNA testing was filed in March. The technology was not available at the time of the original trial.



Ronald Lee Moore is pictured in a mugshot (North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety)

Syed's release comes after he has spent more than two decades behind bars for the murder of his former girlfriend and classmate.

Lee, 18, vanished without a trace back on 13 January 1999 after leaving Woodlawn High School in Baltimore, Maryland, where she was a senior. Her body was found around one month later buried in a park in Baltimore. She had been strangled.

Syed, who was 17 at the time, was arrested and charged with her murder. In 2000, he was convicted of murder, robbery, kidnapping and false imprisonment and sentenced to life in prison.

His conviction relied heavily on testimony from his friend Jay Wilds, who claimed that Syed confessed to killing Lee and enlisted his help in digging a hole to bury her body in the park.

Wilds said that he went along with it because Syed threatened to tell the police that he was running a drug operation, which he feared would land him with hefty jail time.

Cellphone records were also used at the trial to place Syed at the crime scene. Investigators have now cast doubt on the reliability of this data.

Syed has always maintained his innocence and turned down a plea deal in 2018, as it would have required him to plead guilty to Lee's murder.

His case shot to global attention in 2014 through true crime podcast *Serial*.



Adnan Syed leaves the Baltimore City Circuit Courthouse in Baltimore (Reuters)

The podcast, created by journalist Sarah Koenig, told the story of Lee's murder and Syed's conviction, raising doubts about his guilt or – at the least – in the prosecution's case.

It revealed that a witness – Asia McClain – claims to have seen Syed in the public library at the time that he was supposed to have killed Lee.

The year after the release of *Serial*, Syed was granted a new hearing, allowing his defence team to bring forward new evidence in the case.

In June 2016, Syed was granted a new trial after his attorneys argued that Syed's original trial lawyer, who later died, was grossly negligent and after Ms McClain testified in court about the encounter in the library.

Syed continued to be held behind bars, after a judge refused to release him on bail.

The state filed an appeal against the ruling but an appeals court sided with Syed once again in 2018 – upholding the decision to grant him a new trial and vacating his conviction.

However, Maryland's highest court reversed the lower court's ruling the following year, denying Syed a new trial and reinstating his conviction. The US Supreme Court then declined a request to hear his case in November 2019.

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JD Vance making dangerous assumptions on Ohio voters

John Bowden on two contrasting campaigns for the Senate



Congressman Tim Ryan, left, and his opponent for the state seat, JD Vance (The Independent)

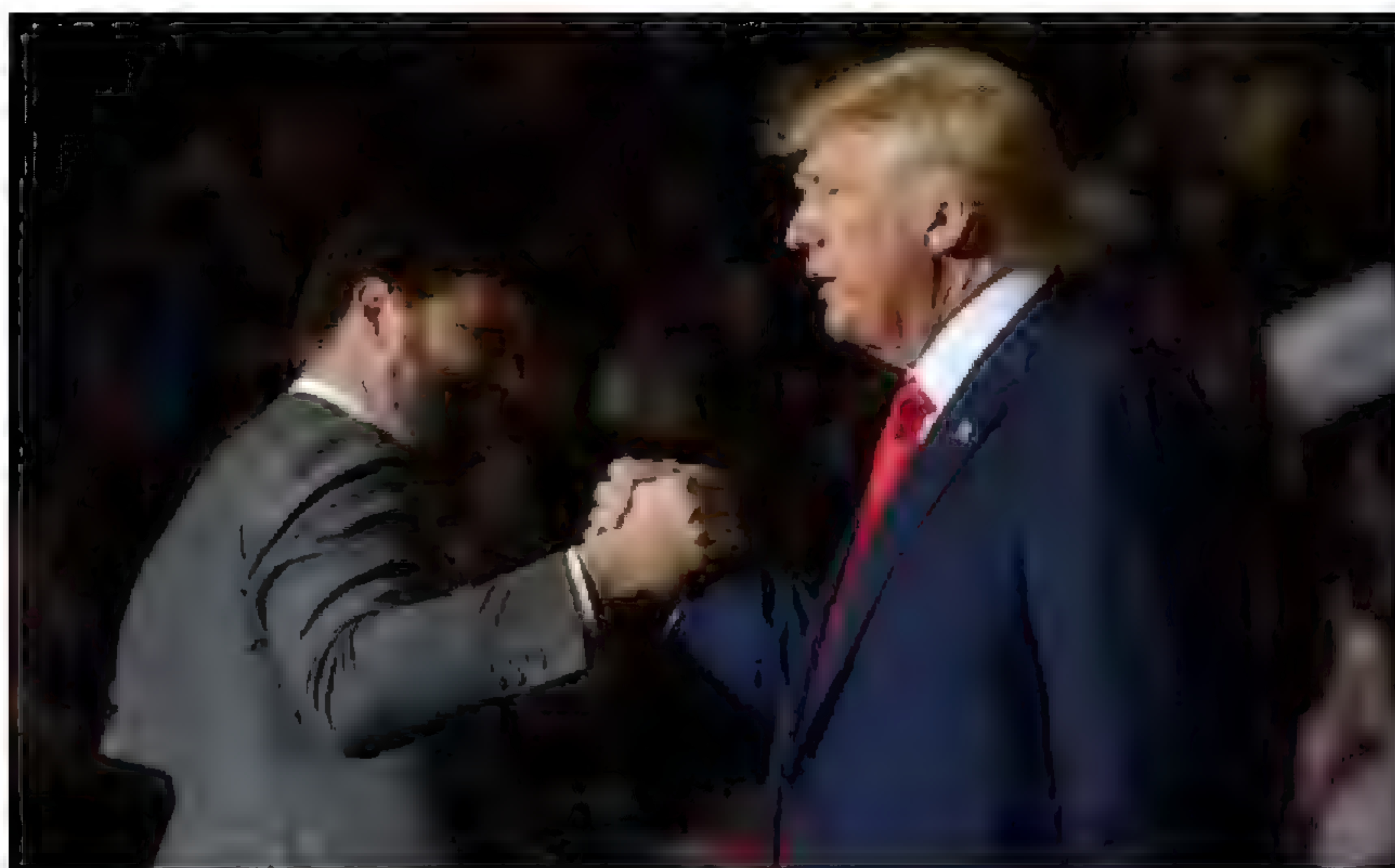
Ohio's Senate race is anyone's game, but the two men running to claim the seat have starkly different ideas about how to win. That was evident on Saturday evening in Youngstown, where Republican candidate and *Hillbilly Elegy* author JD Vance once again sought the "Trump bump" and faced a crowd of thousands clad in MAGA hats and "Let's Go Brandon" T-shirts.

In many ways, Mr Vance is not a unique candidate. Like Pennsylvania's Dr Mehmet Oz, he has faced scepticism from conservatives in his party who fumed over Donald Trump's snub of their chosen campaigns, in Mr Vance's case represented by the Ted Cruz-endorsed Josh Mandel.

But unwilling to accept that scepticism and move on following a victory in the GOP primary, Mr Vance has leaned into Mr Trump's endorsement. In this way, he is much different from both Dr Oz and others such as Arizona's Blake Masters, both of whom have tried to pivot from their fealty to Mr Trump as well as past statements outlining their conservative positions – a clear move towards a general election audience.

There was no sign of a pivot from Mr Vance on Saturday, who railed against Democrats on immigration in a roughly 10-minute address that, despite his pro-Trump fervour, was skipped over by many of the right-wing channels following the rally live. “We have big issues in Ohio, like the southern border,” he told attendees.

Unlike his fellows, Mr Vance appears to be predicating his general election strategy on the idea that Ohio is now a firmly red state. It's a dangerous assumption, even given that Ohio has supported Republicans in the past two presidential elections. If it pays off, it will be a clear message to Democrats across the state (and likely elsewhere in the rust belt) that despite everything, Mr Trump's unpopularity remains low enough in red and purple-red areas to allow the “Maga” brand to persist.



JD Vance with Donald Trump in Ohio. Mr Vance has leaned into the former president's endorsement (Getty Images)

Mr Trump is far from the only Maga Republican to endorse and campaign in person for Mr Vance. In the final days of Ohio's GOP primary, Mr Vance rallied alongside other big-name conservatives including Marjorie Taylor Greene, Donald Trump Jr and Matt Gaetz. Compare that strategy to the one being pursued by congressman Tim Ryan, and it becomes clear that both candidates see the field similarly.

Mr Ryan, a veteran of Capitol Hill famous for sparring (unsuccessfully) with Nancy Pelosi for the speaker's gavel, has reimagined himself as a Joe Manchin-esque figure willing to openly rebuke his party leadership for policies he now says are too left-wing. In recent days he has come out against Joe Biden's plan to forgive some student loans for millions of borrowers, and depicted himself in interviews as almost Republican Lite while taking care not to insult the former president or his voters.

"I'm running as an independent-minded person who's taken on President Obama, who's taken Nancy Pelosi, has taken on Bernie Sanders but also agreed with Trump on trade and China and General Mattis and other things," said the congressman recently. He added: "People want an independent-minded person, they don't want someone who's just going to pull the lever with their own party, and I will be capable of saying 'no' to my own party."

While a questionable tactic given his past run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination and endorsement of Mr Biden in 2020, Mr Ryan's efforts are clearly those of a candidate who sees his state as trending increasingly conservative. He has repeatedly, through his own statements and those of his comms team, rejected the idea of tying himself to the national Democratic brand, unlike his fellow US Senate candidates on the left including John Fetterman in neighbouring Pennsylvania. And his comms team has actively insisted to reporters that he will not seek help from any allies in his party.

"Well, not really asking anybody. Like I just, I'm not one of those guys like, 'Oh, I need someone to come in and help me.'

I've been doing this, I know what I'm doing. I know what I believe in. I know where I'm from. I know who I'm fighting for. I don't need anyone else to like, you know, gum that message up," the candidate himself explained in a recent interview.



Mr Ryan has repeatedly rejected the idea of tying himself to the national Democratic brand, also calling for president Joe Biden to step aside rather than run for re-election (AP)

Mr Ryan has even turned on his 2020 champion, Mr Biden, and called for the president to step aside rather than run for re-election in the next cycle. Some have seen that as a reversal of his position, given that he joined nearly every other Democrat in the 2020 cycle rallying behind Mr Biden against Mr Sanders when it became clear that just a few candidates had mathematical paths to winning. "We need new leadership across the board," he told a Youngstown-based news outlet just days ago.

"The environment politically across the country is poisonous, and people I think want some change," he added in the interview, which earned him a denouncement as a "two-faced fraud" from Mr Vance's campaign. "It's important for us, in both parties, these leaders who have been around for a while, I think it's time for some generational change."

But that doesn't mean Mr Ryan is willing to abandon the president entirely – especially when Mr Biden does something the congressman can use for votes. Perhaps clouding his efforts to distance himself from the generation of Democrats

immediately preceding him, Mr Ryan appeared at a rally alongside Mr Biden several months ago following the passage of the CHIPS Act – a piece of legislation meant to boost America’s semiconductor manufacturing in the face of a global shortage. And even more confusingly, he appeared to do so in his role as congressman, not Senate hopeful.

For his part, however, Mr Ryan asserts that his sudden run from the national party is by no means a flip-flop. He says that his calls for “generational change” are a long time coming, and should be no surprise to voters.

“I’ve been saying this since 2016, so this is not breaking news,” he told *USA Today*. “This is what President Biden said, too. He said, ‘I’m going to be a bridge to the next generation’, so I don’t feel like I’m saying anything that’s particularly new.”

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Typhoon Nanmadol lashes Japan with extreme rainfall



High waves hit the shore in Aki, Kochi prefecture, in southwestern Japan yesterday (AP)

STUTI MISHRA

Millions were forced to take refuge as Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall in Japan bringing high winds and record rainfall that left at least two people dead. The storm officially made landfall at about 7pm local time on Sunday near Kagoshima, in the southwestern part of the country, with winds reaching 150mph, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

“We need to remain highly vigilant for heavy rains, gales, high waves and storm surges,” a JMA official told a news conference.

Several areas in southwestern regions, including the western island of Kyushu and the main island of Honshu, have experienced extreme rainfall, power cuts, waterlogging and falling trees, which have put the lives of millions of people at risk. A river in Kyushu’s Miyazaki prefecture overflowed, flooding fields and roads, footage from state broadcaster NHK showed. Another video showed a riverside house hanging over a torrent, roofs ripped off buildings, and billboards toppled.



Raging waters flow along the Sendai River in the wake of the typhoon in Isa, Kagoshima prefecture (AFP/Getty)

One man was killed when his car was submerged in a flooded river, reported NHK. Firefighters were also trying to determine whether another man, in his forties, was inside a hut that had been buried by a landslide. At least 69 people were also injured, state media reported. About 340,000 households, most of them in Kyushu, were without electricity early yesterday morning, the trade ministry said.

Kyushu Railway Co said it had halted operations on Kyushu, while Japan Airline Co and ANA Holdings, which provide air transport services, cancelled about 800 flights.

Typhoon Nanmadol is Japan’s 14th typhoon of the season. It is one of the biggest storms to hit the country in years and has sparked a rare “special warning” from authorities. The storm was

centred on Yamaguchi prefecture, on the western tip of Honshu, early yesterday morning, and was heading northeast at about 15km/h along the north coast, the JMA said.



Japanese soldiers conduct a search and rescue operation at the site of a landslide in Miyazaki prefecture (Reuters)

The agency predicted that the storm would track the coast to the north of Honshu into this morning before moving out over the Pacific.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is reported to have delayed his departure to New York, where he is due to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly, until today in order to monitor the impact of the storm.

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Over 300 dead as Nigeria tackles worst floods in years



Families are forced to move yesterday after the deluge in Hadeja, northern Nigeria

STAFF REPORTER

Nigeria is battling its worst floods in a decade with more than 300 people killed this year including at least 20 this week, authorities yesterday, admitting the situation is “beyond our control”.

The floods in 27 of Nigeria’s 36 states and capital city have affected half a million people including 100,000 displaced, Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency said. More than 500 have been injured, it said.

The disaster has also destroyed thousands of hectares of farmland, worsening fears of a disruption of food supply in Africa's most populous country.

"This [the flood-related deaths] is the highest we ever had," said Manzo Ezekiel, a spokesperson for the disaster management agency. Mr Ezekiel's was talking about the period since 2012.

Nigeria records flooding every year often as a result of non-implementation of environmental guidelines and inadequate infrastructure. Authorities are blaming the floods this year on water overflowing from some local rivers, unusual rainfalls and the release of excess water from Lagdo dam in neighboring Cameroon's northern region.

The Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, or Nema, predicted more floods in 2022 than last year due to "excessive rainfalls and contributions from external flows" such as the dam in Cameroon.

Yesterday, Nigeria's disaster management agency alerted states of "serious consequences" in the coming weeks by more than a dozen states as two of the country's dams have started to overflow.

"I want to advise all the governments of the frontline states to move away communities at risk of inundation, identify safe higher grounds for evacuation of persons and preposition adequate stockpiles of food and non-food items," said Nema head Mustapha Habib Ahmed.

In the northwest Jigawa state, floods killed more than 20 people in the last week, Yusuf Sani Babura, head of the Jigawa State Emergency Management Agency, told the AP. The state has recorded 91 deaths from flooding this year — more than any state in the country.

"We are facing devastating floods beyond our control," said Mr Babura. "We have tried our best and we couldn't stop it."

The floods have also destroyed crops in many farmlands mostly in Nigeria's northern region which produces much of what the country eats, raising concerns that it could further affect food

supplies already disrupted by armed conflict in the country's northwest and central regions.

Akintunde Babatunde, an Abuja-based climate analyst, said the main cause of Nigeria's annual flooding problem is poor infrastructural designs in areas of roads, drainage and waste disposal. "Unusual rainfall is evidence of the changing climate," he said.

Associated Press

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World news in brief



Salman al-Nabahin with the priceless relic found underneath his olive orchard (Reuters)

Farmer in Gaza unearths Byzantine-era mosaic

An ornate Byzantine floor mosaic has been discovered by chance in Gaza after a Palestinian farmer tried to plant trees on his land. Salman al-Nabahin unearthed the relic while working in his olive orchard in the Bureij refugee camp, about a kilometre (0.6 miles) from the border with Israel.

Trying to figure out why some trees had not properly taken root, Mr Nabahin said he and his son began digging. Then the son's

axe hit something hard and unfamiliar in appearance. “I searched on the internet ... We learnt it was a mosaic belonging to the Byzantine era. I see it as a treasure, dearer than a treasure. It isn’t personal, it belongs to every Palestinian.”

The Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said the flooring included several mosaic panels depicting animals and other features of social life during the Byzantine era. Gaza is rich with antiquities, having been an important trading spot for civilisations dating as far back as the ancient Egyptians and the Philistines depicted in the Bible, through to the Roman empire and the Crusades. *Reuters*

American freed by Taliban in swap for drug trafficker

A US contractor held hostage in Afghanistan for more than two years has been released in exchange for a convicted Taliban drug lord jailed in the United States, the White House said yesterday.

Mark Frerichs, a US Navy veteran who had spent more than a decade in Afghanistan as a civilian contractor, was abducted in January 2020 and is believed to have been held since then by the Taliban-linked Haqqani network. He was traded for Bashir Noorzai, a Taliban associate convicted of heroin trafficking in 2008, who had spent 17 years behind bars before his release yesterday.

Joe Biden said in a statement released by the White House: “Bringing the negotiations that led to Mark’s freedom to a successful resolution required difficult decisions, which I did not take lightly.”

Charlene Cakora, a sister of Mr Frerichs, who is from Lombard, Illinois, thanked the US government officials who helped secure her brother’s release. “I am so happy to hear that my brother is safe and on his way home to us. Our family has prayed for this each day of the more than 31 months he has been a hostage. We never gave up hope that he would survive and come home safely to us.” *AP*

Littlefeather accepts apology from Academy

Sacheen Littlefeather has formally accepted an apology from the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences over the abuse she endured as she gave her 1973 Oscars speech. In June, the Academy extended an apology to Littlefeather for the hostile reception she received at the awards ceremony 49 years ago. Littlefeather, 75, formally accepted the apology at an event titled “An Evening with Sacheen Littlefeather”, which was held at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles.

In response to the apology letter issued by the former Academy president David Rubin, Littlefeather said: “I am here accepting this apology. Not only for me alone, but as acknowledgement, knowing that it was not only for me but for all of our nations that also need to hear and deserve this apology tonight. Now, I would like all the Indian people in this audience to stand. Look at our people, look at each other and be proud that we stand as survivors, all of us.”

Chinese official explains how to avoid monkeypox

An official in China has advised citizens to not touch foreigners after one case of the monkeypox virus was reported on the mainland. Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, posted the remarks on his official Weibo page. “To prevent possible monkeypox infection and as part of our healthy lifestyle, it is recommended that you do not have direct skin-to-skin contact with foreigners,” he wrote.

The disease can be spread through skin-to-skin contact, and through surfaces such as fabric that have been touched by somebody infected, but no scientific evidence has suggested that only “foreigners” can spread the virus. One monkeypox infection was recorded in the city of Chongqing in southwestern China on Friday. The case is mainland China’s first known monkeypox infection since the onset of the recent global outbreak.

US sends aircraft carrier to Korean peninsula

The US is sending an aircraft carrier to South Korea this week to participate in its first joint training with Seoul's warships in five years, in what is perceived to be a show of force against North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

South Korean navy officials said yesterday that the USS *Ronald Reagan* aircraft carrier and its battle group would join the southeastern South Korean naval base on Friday for combined training aimed at strengthening the military readiness of both the allies. This is the first such joint drill involving the participation of a US aircraft carrier near the Korean peninsula in five years.

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This show of affection would have startled modest Queen



Modern-day cynicism has been brushed under the carpet – at least for a week as we mourn (Getty)

IAN LLOYD



I have to admit that I've never seen anything like the outpouring of affection for Queen Elizabeth II and her family in the 35 years I've been reporting on royal events.

In London, there has been none of the raw grief we had when Diana died. This has been more controlled, more respectful and altogether more fitting to mark the life of a woman who held her own emotions in check, but was passionately committed to the people of this nation and the other countries she was head of state of.

Essentially a modest person, she would have been startled by the outpouring of affection over the past few days. Last Tuesday, I was outside RAF Northolt to see her body being driven back to London. I was expecting half a dozen hardy souls to join me by the side of the A40, not the thousand or so gathered in the steady evening drizzle.

Traffic on the motorway and side roads ground to a halt. I dumped the car on a grass verge and ran the last half-mile. As the royal hearse passed by, with the royal standard glowing under spotlights and giving a splash of colour, there were shouts of “God bless the Queen” and a growing round of applause. I saw the Princess Royal biting her lip through the rain-spattered windows of her car, clearly surprised by the number of people. From the nearby bridge over the M40, I looked down and saw hundreds of abandoned vehicles, with men and women running through the traffic to catch a glimpse of this history in the making.

I was in the capital the following day for the procession to Westminster Hall. As King Charles III drove out of Clarence House to the palace, there were shouts of “God save the King”, renditions of the national anthem and more applause. It was an echo of a bygone age that had me totally surprised, with modern-day cynicism brushed under the carpet – at least for this week while we honoured the Queen.

As the cortege passed by, there was no shouting or applause from where I was in the Mall outside Clarence House. Instead, there was the rhythmic beat of guardsmen’s boots, the crunch of the gun carriage wheels and the affecting funeral anthems of Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Chopin.

The British love a queue, and this was a good-natured one, with lots of place saving as we nipped to the loo



Behind it came our new King, who has slid seamlessly into his role, just as the Queen herself did back in 1952, when she was a 25-year-old wife and mother. Princess Anne again looked pained, and William and Harry were clearly lost in thought. Another moving sight was the upright figure of the Queen's favourite member of staff, Paul Whybrew, her 62-year-old page, who memorably starred in her James Bond spoof in 2012. Loyal to the end, "Tall Paul" as she dubbed him, was by her side in her final days at Balmoral. More than staff, he had, in recent years, become a close friend and would even sit and watch TV with her.

Hundreds watched the ceremony on TV screens in Hyde Park, as they had for Diana's funeral in 1997. Others headed for Green Park where flowers were being laid – not in a vast sea as they had been for the princess, but in circles of colour around tree after tree. What was surprising was that people of all ages were there, pausing to lay a tribute, to read cards and messages and occasionally shed a tear. Here and there, were Paddington Bears and the odd marmalade sandwich which, in her hilarious jubilee video just three months ago, endeared the Queen to her younger fans and to the child in us all.

I also made sure I was part of that other, far longer procession, to witness the lying-in-state. I got off lightly with a mere nine-hour wait. It wasn't a mournful experience, but rather a chance to swap memories of the Queen – whether we'd seen her face to face or, more usually, as a white glove through a car window. The British love a queue, and this was a good-natured one, with lots of place saving as we nipped off to the loo or grabbed a coffee. I met a family from Australia who loved the Queen and said there

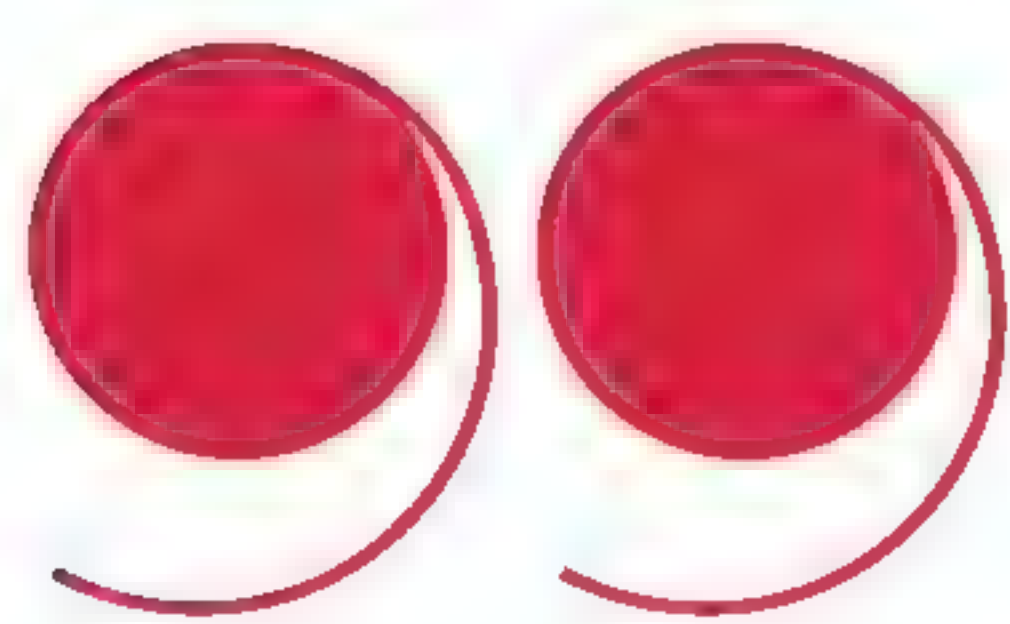
is a bit of a “thing” over there about William and Kate, the monarchy’s golden couple.

Inside Westminster Hall, there was a feeling of hushed reverence as we walked down carpeted steps into this ancient building that has witnessed coronation banquets, the trial of Charles I, addresses to parliament by leaders from Nelson Mandela to Barack Obama, and now the lying-in-state of our much-loved Queen. I bowed and said, “Thank you, Ma’am”. Others curtsied or crossed themselves.

What struck me in London was the need to be together. There was something comforting about being with the crowds. There was such a feeling of affection for the new King and Queen Consort Camilla, who have both had a rocky ride with public affection over the years. There was a feeling of healing when Prince Harry marched in time alongside his brother, and even Prince Andrew was brought back into the royal fold, which would have gladdened his mother’s heart.

How long will this feeling of family and national unity last? No one knows. What matters is that, in this watershed moment in our island history, we are saying the most fitting and loving of farewells to Elizabeth II, who served her people so well for 70 years and whose passing has been marked in the way she surely deserved.

Ian Lloyd is the author of The Queen: 70 Chapters in the Life of Elizabeth II



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The Queen's friendship with Mandela was an illustration of the depth of her principles



Queen Elizabeth and Nelson Mandela held each other in such high regard that they were on first-name terms (Reuters)

NDILEKA MANDELA



If there is one truth about the world, it is that it doesn't stand still. A great leader is not someone who refuses to acknowledge change. A great leader is someone with the ability, confidence and courage to demonstrate deep principles in changing circumstances.

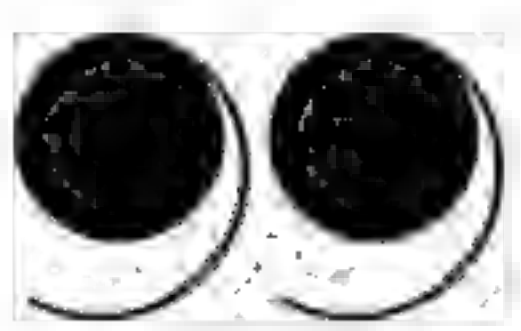
I hold in my heart today two truths. The first is that the legacy of British imperialism is a painful, even awful one in many places. But I also mourn with your country and your people; Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a leader of ability, confidence and courage. Not only that, but Her Majesty and Nelson Mandela – my grandfather – held each other in such high regard that they were on first-name terms.

This, apparently, is a breach of royal protocol. But it is also one that I love, precisely because the exception underscored the remarkableness of their closeness. It is a legacy I hope her successor, King Charles III, can continue.

In fact, he must. When the mourning is formally ended, when he asks himself what his role in the world can and must be, I would invite King Charles to reflect on the closeness of his mother and my grandfather, and what that means for the possibility of principled leadership in the world.

Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne in 1952, while in Kenya. The link with Africa must have stuck, because in her lifetime she visited more than 20 African countries. That, in turn, may have deepened her horror at the legacy of racism and the fact of apartheid.

At a time when political processes and leaders are viewed so sceptically, the value of such leadership increases enormously: do as we do, not as we say



Some speculate that tension between the Queen and prime minister Margaret Thatcher had something to do with Thatcher's refusal to act against apartheid. Moreover, we South Africans admired the Queen because she refused to visit our country during apartheid, and because she rushed to endorse my grandfather after the system fell.

That is why she and my grandfather became so close: it was not where they came from, but where they wanted the world to go that drew them together. They recognised that, as leaders, they had a special responsibility to do what they could to take their countries and their people in the right direction.

And at a time when political processes and leaders are viewed so sceptically, the value of such leadership increases enormously: do as we do, not as we say. King Charles III confronts a difficult landscape, for sure. With sharp polarisation wrecking many democracies, and global threats like the climate crisis proving increasingly dangerous, one might fear the worst.

But that said, it is precisely the office Charles III represents – the authority he can and cannot bring to bear – that makes him so important right now. Like his mother before him, of course, King Charles holds an oath to the Church of England, standing as defender of the faith and a protector of faiths. For him, faith traditions have always been a matter of deep attraction. Can he transform that interest into the kind of outreach the world desperately needs?

There are precedents before him, of course, like the late Bishop Desmond Tutu, who incidentally also came out of the Anglican Church. There are examples around him now, as well: Pope Francis seeks to inspire the world to heal itself, to push us to confront our responsibility to God's creation, and to act humbly in the world.



It was not where they came from, but where they wanted the world to go that drew them together (PA)

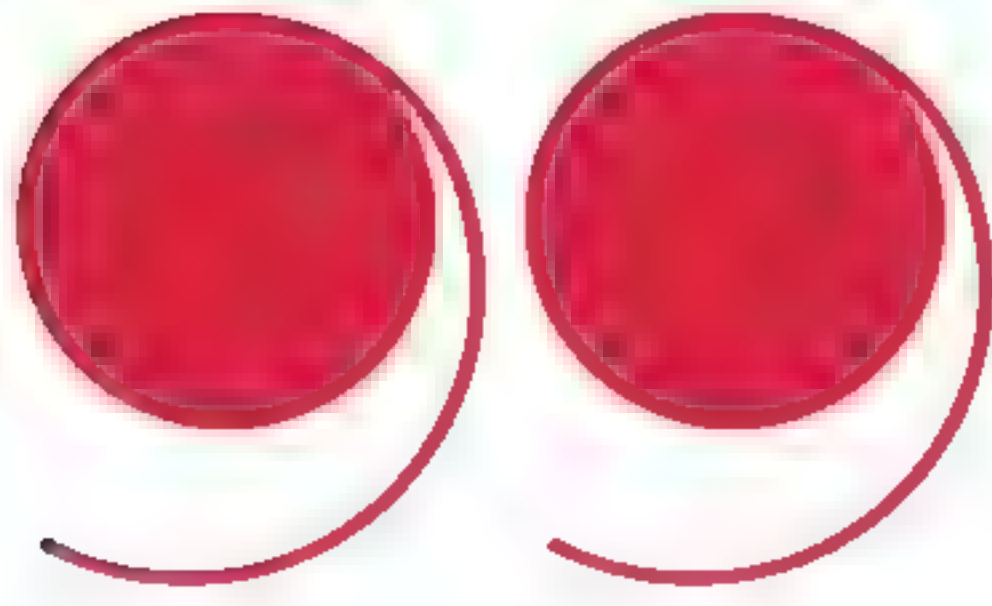
Other faith leaders, such as the Aga Khan, are dedicated to building bridges with other faith communities, or enabling education in impoverished communities – especially girls' education. Another Islamic cleric, Dr Abdulkarim al-Issa, has taken the organisation he leads, the Muslim World League, and made it a vehicle for dialogue across faiths.

King Charles has previously expressed admiration for other faith traditions, such as Islam. He has made building relationships with other faiths part of his work in the world – all the more valuable since Britain is increasingly diverse, including religiously. He is also a fierce advocate for the environment. With leaders such as the Bishop of Norwich, he might find ways to channel the authority of the monarchy to bring about a better world.

None of this means that Britain has not suffered a great loss, but another mark of great leaders is how they address the absence we confront in our lives. Queen Elizabeth's friendships reveal who she was and what she wanted out of the world, and for the world. The mourners who gathered to see her off one last time reflect how deeply touched, moved, and fundamentally improved we all were by who she was.

Let us mourn without fear. For there is much work yet to be done. The honour of that burden falls to us.

*Ndileka Mandela is a writer, social activist and the head of the
Thembekile Mandela Foundation*



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It was right that George and Charlotte were at the funeral



The young prince and princess seemed well equipped to cope with the ceremony (Reuters)

VICTORIA RICHARDS



There had been questions about whether Prince George and Princess Charlotte would attend the state funeral of their great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II.

Aged nine and seven respectively, nobody was sure whether their parents, William and Kate, the Prince and Princess of

Wales, would allow them to take part in proceedings. But George and Charlotte were, indeed, at the ceremony – and it felt completely fitting. They were dressed appropriately, they behaved impeccably – if I were William and Kate, I'd have felt both proud and relieved.

Prince Louis (who is, at four, the couple's youngest child) didn't attend, but that feels right, too. His parents clearly felt that his age (and proven rambunctious personality) meant it was best he stay at home to remember his great-grandmother privately. Archie and Lilibet, the children of Prince Harry and Meghan, weren't there either, no doubt because they are aged just three and one.

You might imagine that when it came to age, Louis was deemed to be the cut-off; he is the perfect example of any four-year-old, royal or not: bored immediately, fond of pulling faces, having absolutely no regard for pomp and ceremony and hushed silence. You only have to look at the way he (hilariously) covered his mother's mouth and stuck his tongue out during the Queen's platinum jubilee pageant in June to get an answer as to why it was thought best he wasn't one of the official mourners.

I know all too well that if I had asked my own son, when he was four, to be reverent and reserved and perfectly behaved at a funeral, let alone one that the entire world was watching, he would have lasted approximately two minutes before sliding down off his pew and shouting about the spider he could see on the coffin.

Beyond the rum-pum-pum drumming, the sombre gun salutes and the mournful hymns lie a plethora of difficult conversations about what it means to lose someone; the intricacies of death



My little boy is now six – a snapshot of where we might find Louis in two years – and I can tell him I’m on an important work call or sending an urgent email while working from home all I like; he will still wholeheartedly believe that I *need* to hear the song he’s recently learned about the continents. He looks at me with his big eyes open wide, trilling the word “Antarctica” operatically – and I melt.

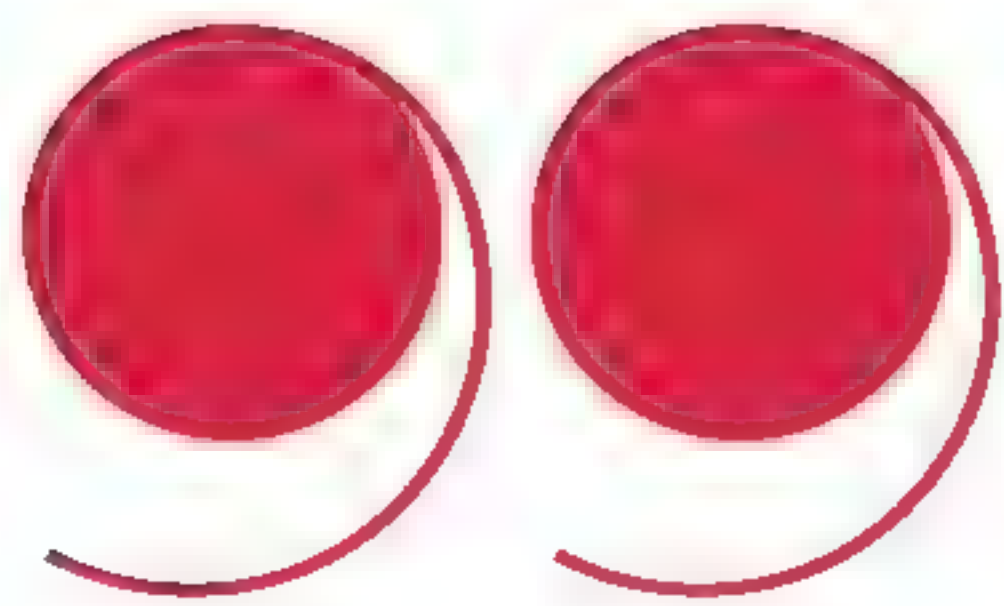
So no, of course Louis shouldn’t have been taken to the funeral. He would have been cute, or funny – never intentionally disrespectful, because kids are only ever just being kids – but absolutely not appropriate to the occasion (bless him).

But when it comes to George and Charlotte, who *did* join some 2,000 others in Westminster Abbey to celebrate their late great-grandmother’s memory, well – this remarkable event will be one that sticks with them for the rest of their lives. They seemed perfectly equipped to cope with the austere ceremony of it, too; though as a parent of kids of similar ages, I do wonder what comes next.

My daughter was with me at *her* great-grandmother’s funeral a couple of years ago, when she was six, and she was fascinated. She asked a steady round of questions, ranging from where they were taking the coffin to what is involved when there’s a cremation. She stayed remarkably dry-eyed during the ceremony and wake, but the tears came later. And so did more questions.

For beyond the rum-pum-pum drumming, the sombre gun salutes and the mournful hymns lie a plethora of difficult conversations about what it means to lose someone; the intricacies of death. None of which should be avoided – grief is part of life, for all of us, and should be treated as such – but it will be very hard for the youngest royals to come to terms with their loss.

Perhaps it will be helpful for them to have witnessed first-hand how deeply the rest of the world is mourning their great-grandmother, too.



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England search for spark as the winter World Cup nears

Ben Burrows on a crucial week for the faltering Three Lions



Gareth Southgate's side face Italy and Germany in the Nations League (PA)



England's World Cup hopefuls are set to get one last chance to impress before Gareth Southgate picks his squad for Qatar.

There are just 61 days until the Three Lions kick off their tournament against Iran with just two matches between now and

then for those on the fringes of selection to catch the manager's eye.

They come in the form of clashes with Italy and Germany over the next week, two contests that will go a long way to deciding who will make up the squad in November and who will miss out, but will also give a steer on where the team are at as a whole ahead of their latest tilt at a trophy.

The most up-to-date read on the latter isn't all that great after a hugely disappointing four-game run to close out last season.

Draws with this week's opponents, in Germany and at Molineux, in June were bookended by shock defeats to Hungary, 1-0 in Budapest and 4-0 back home 10 days later.

Should they lose to Italy in Milan on Friday they will be relegated from their Nations League group and while that would be less than ideal going forward, the impact on World Cup preparations would be far more damaging.

Southgate, as he so often has done over his tenure, has kept faith with his core group to lift themselves out of their current slump with Brentford striker Ivan Toney the only new face chosen to inject some fresh spark.

Marcus Rashford misses out through injury after a long-awaited return to form, but Manchester United teammate Jadon Sancho's own good run has gone unrewarded.

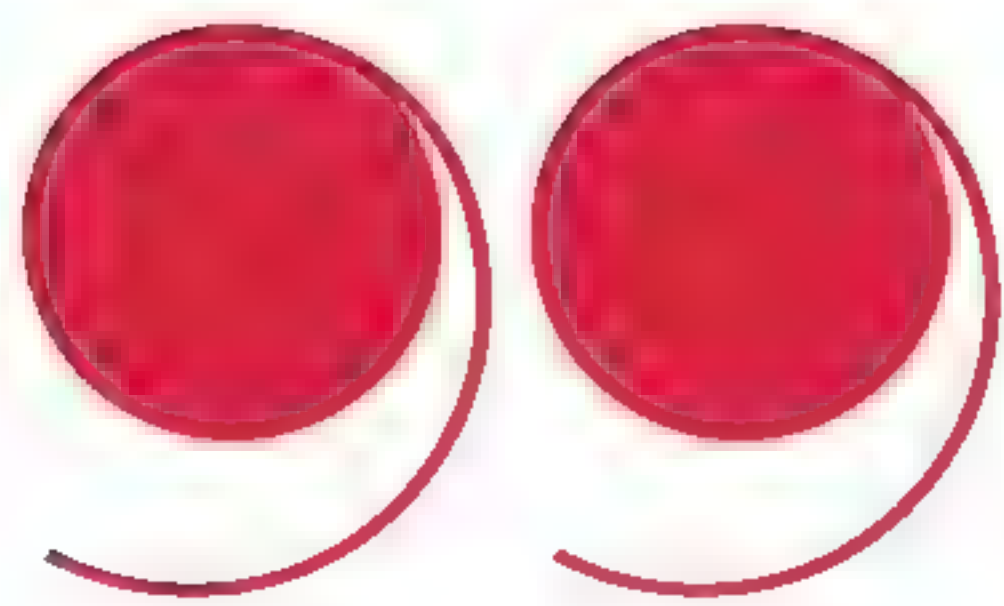
With so little time between now and the big kick off this week represents a final shot for those with dreams of a place in the squad; a last chance to show what they could do if given the opportunity on the biggest stage. Good performances in these matches will go a long way to making those dreams a reality.

After what seems like a lifetime of waiting for it, for England and Southgate, the road to Qatar for real starts here.

Yours,

Ben Burrows

Sports editor



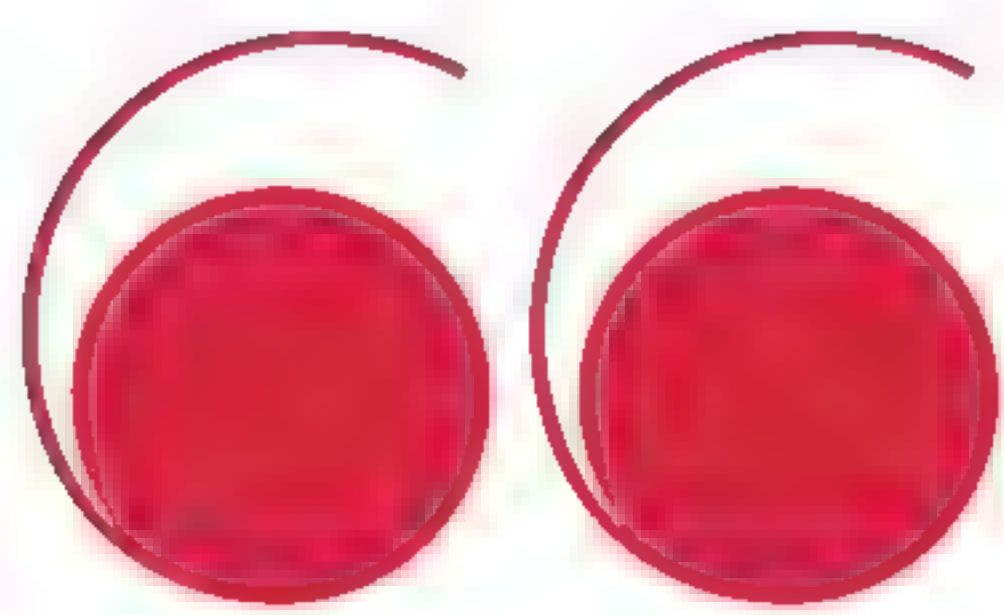
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We'll remember the devoted, not those who cling to power



It is to be hoped that Justin Welby's words in honour of the Queen, that those who serve "will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten," will not fall on deaf ears.

If we take anything from the death of Queen Elizabeth II, it should be that self-serving opportunism is no substitute for selfless service and dedication to the safety and welfare of others.

Graham Powell *Cirencester*

Who can lead us?

Susan Alexander in yesterday's Letters expresses a common concern about our ability to choose suitable candidates to be our president.

Can I suggest that if Eire can come up with presidents like Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese, we should not doubt our ability to do the same.

Joanna Pallister *Durham City*

David Beckham, man of the people

It seems that some nonentities received VIP passes to attend Westminster Hall.

Well done David Beckham who, I am sure, could have obtained a VIP pass but chose instead to take his turn in the queue with the hoi polloi. Not only that, but he was dressed most respectfully in a dark suit, white shirt and black tie.

Mike Stroud *Swansea*

Perilous economic state

Of all the many illogical changes that the new government is proposing, the massive tax cuts (News, yesterday) seem to me to be the most destructive to both the economy and the reputation of the Tory party.

The huge level of borrowing required to fund the energy crisis bailout, coupled with the rejection of an increased windfall tax on the excessive profits of the energy companies, will put the country in a truly perilous economic state for years – or even decades – to come.

Another disastrous decision is the proposal to lift the ban on fracking. Clearly, the oil and gas companies are getting their money's worth from their lobbying organisations.

David Felton *Wistaston*

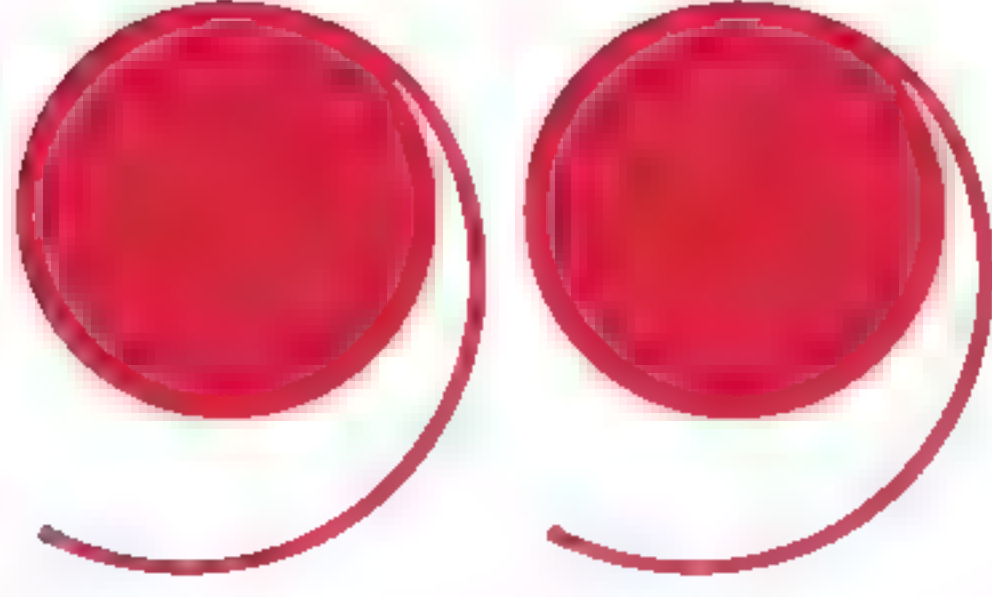
Heaven help us

Harry Cockburn's article rightly highlights the frighteningly wrong thinking in our current leadership. He asks the question, "cui bono?" and it's quite clear that the latest awful PM is deeply in hock to the fossil fuel companies.

Let's not forget that the largest single donation to Liz Truss's campaign fund came from the wife of a former BP executive. To how many other oil industry magnates is she indebted, I wonder?

Major global events, the obvious imminence of a catastrophic climate crisis, the likelihood of massive mortality rates – does this all mean nothing when your only priority is helping yourself and your rich cronies to get richer? Heaven help us.

Lynda Newbery *Bristol*



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Section 2/ The Big Read

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Often seen as a relic of a bygone era, **Simon Calder** explains why hitchhiking could be a good way to combat rising costs – as long as technology can help mitigate some of the problems



Thumbs up: Simon hitchhiking in Nova Scotia, Canada (Simon Calder)

Smart motorways must be abolished. Doncaster Sheffield Airport must be saved for the nation. And we must build more roads. That is the sum total of what we know about Liz Truss's

plans for transport, as set out during the Conservative Party hustings, Prime Minister's Questions and her first address to the nation outside No 10. None of which, it seems to me, begins to address the current cost-of-travel crisis. Most longer journeys – and many shorter ones – in the UK are made by car. The vast majority use petrol or diesel – for which the price per litre has risen by 50 per cent in the course of a year.

On the railways, passengers continue to be deterred by a fares system of implausible complexity that all too often delivers outrageous prices. I could paper a room with the press releases I have received from the Department of Transport over the decades, promising reform of a system that everybody knows is broken. Yet no one has been bold enough to change it. With national rail strikes so frequent that they feel part of the rhythm of travel disruption, passengers are being actively discouraged.

Aviation, meanwhile, is in a holding pattern after the shambolic summer peak, waiting for the turbulence of high fuel prices plus the weak pound to strike as “hedges” unwind. Passengers must get used to higher fares and fewer flights.

Yet amid the transport doom, soaring inflation and economic misery, there is a dimension of mobility that could stage a welcome comeback: hitchhiking.

I can sense a rolling of eyes. Jack Kerouac drank himself to death in 1969. Surely the era of free and easy travel that the writer of *On The Road* came to personify died with him? An entire generation – probably two – can scarcely conceive of a time when any major motorway intersection or service station featured a straggle of young people soliciting lifts from passing drivers. In terms of unpredictability, hitchhiking ranks alongside angling – only with a huge potential downside, critics will argue.

Safety is the primary concern, and I shall propose some risk mitigation. But first, hear out the many benefits.

Of all forms of motorised transport, hitchhiking has the least impact on the environment. The hitcher is travelling with someone who is going anyway, adding only a minuscule amount to the fuel burn. Hitchhikers never need to be factored into

forecasts for bus or train capacity, since their demand for transport is fulfilled by one of the extremely high number of empty seats travelling around the country.

The benefits go way beyond limiting damage to the planet. Hitchhiking can be an economic motor. You may regard that as a preposterous claim, as cash does not change hands –

although it did on multiple occasions in *On The Road*. Yet thumbing a ride

still allows some people in sparsely populated, bus-free locations to get to work and contribute to the economy. And hitchhikers are often tourists – spending money locally during their trips.

The greatest advantages of hitchhiking, though, are intangible. In my younger years, when public transport was based on fixed fares, way above my (non-) pay grade, I would have been effectively grounded without the opportunity to thumb lifts. Instead, I discovered a world beyond Crawley New Town that was full of wonders. That I remain an enthusiastic participant is partly because I have never owned a car, apart from a botched “buy-here-sell-there” attempt to make a journey from Adelaide to Sydney. “Big Red” as I named the clapped-out Holden, left me well in the red with a A\$1,000 loss.



Jack Kerouac in New York in 1958 (AP)



Hitchhiking was far more common in the past (Getty)

Hitchhiking still allows me to explore areas that would, as a non-car owner, be off-limits. Last summer I thumbed through the raw glory of Caithness; this summer I hitched along the north coast of Sicily. On both trips I met people who I would simply never encounter in other circumstances: a headteacher who lived and worked on the north coast of Scotland; an itinerant crew member from a Sicily-based superyacht; and an Algerian tourist who was exploring the biggest island in the Mediterranean using the sinuous old highways rather than the autopista.

As the kilometres clicked steadily away, we shared a journey through beautiful corners of Europe, shared conversation and shared humanity.

Yes, I have been blessed. In five decades of hitching, I have spent only one night in hospital as a consequence of a road accident while travelling in a lift. In the 20th century, the main risk of hitchhiking was all too evident: the death toll on the roads, particularly in continental Europe, was tragically high. Thankfully accident rates have fallen sharply, and now the hitchhiking risk of most concern is harm caused by either party in the transaction.

The benevolent motorist who stops for a hitchhiking chooses, in a split second, to allow one or more strangers into the inner sanctum of their vehicle.

The hitchhiker is in a slightly better position to judge risk. I can evaluate a potentially dangerous driver if they swerve recklessly to a halt, and detect any smell of alcohol on their breath. But 999 times out of 1,000 I will accept the invitation and get in.



Is there a way tech can help make hitchhiking popular and safe? (Getty)

Most other people, particularly women on their own, would – understandably – simply never wish to put themselves in such a position. Some of my female friends who still hitchhike use technology to try to limit the danger they place themselves in. They note or photograph the number plate as they approach the vehicle. Once inside and on the move, they politely say to the driver: “I hope you understand, I’m just going to text your registration number to my friend.” Most drivers understand and are impressed with this simple safety precaution rather than indignant at its application.

Here’s a challenge for a tech start-up: harness mobile connectivity to emulate hitchhiking, but giving the participants some prior reassurance about each other – and ideally remove the standing-forlornly-in-the-rain element in the process, if you would.

Attempts to organise hitchhiking have never worked in the UK. In Germany, MiFaZ calls itself an online brokerage for ride-sharing, while BlahBlahCar does much the same in France. The idea is that the passenger pays the driver something for the fuel, and the “marriage bureau” that connects them collects a small fee. The organisations deploy an array of safety measures to try to ensure the participants are benign. Yet despite multiple attempts to use these services I have never succeeded in finding a ride. Paris to Berlin in three days’ time is not much use when you need to get to the German capital today.

We need Uber-like technology to accelerate the market, to give it the immediacy that hitchhiking involves. I dream of a time when I can be in a stranger’s car heading south on the A9 from far north of Scotland, tapping at my phone to set up an onward ride from Inverness to Skye. But for now, I will hop out of one lift, thank the driver for their generosity (and hope that they feel good about helping a stranger), then take up a suitably visible location beside the A82 and hope for the best. Transportation salvation usually arrives, sometimes quite quickly. I have not the slightest idea who I might be about to meet. But I am sure I am going to like them.

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Section 2/ Ask Simon Calder



I'd like to go on a safari trip – where do you suggest?



Cool cat: you'll see plenty of lions at Masai Mara in Kenya (Getty)

Q I'm after some advice for a safari trip. It's a retirement holiday, now that Covid has lifted. Any time of the year. I've been recommended by others to do South Africa. What's your advice?

Sharon

A Safaris are rewarding in many parts of the world, including the Amazon and India, but I sense you have Africa in mind. So I shall focus there.

I have been lucky enough to have three wildlife trips to Africa. The first included Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe – covering an area three-quarters of the size of Wales, with lion, elephant and giraffe in abundance. But the tourist industry in Zimbabwe was severely damaged by Robert Mugabe and you may not have such a great experience there.

Next, an outstanding stay at the original Kicheche camp in Kenya's Masai Mara. While it is expensive to reach and to stay in, the tour guides are superb and the service impeccable.

The third was a very different experience, yet still extremely rewarding: an overland trip with Dragoman, beginning in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe but spending the vast majority of time exploring Botswana and Namibia – with rhino, leopard, elephant and zebra. With so much natural beauty in the region, this was the adventure I enjoyed most (and also the cheapest – transport is provided by a converted Sainsbury's lorry).

I have not yet enjoyed a safari in South Africa, but I know the biggest and most celebrated National Park is the Kruger – an area of protected land the size of Wales that was first designated in 1898. It is located in the northeast of the country, against the Mozambique border, and the relatively new Skukuza Safari Lodge looks a good place to stay. Some experts swear by the private game reserves adjacent to the Kruger: Londolozi and Mala Mala. And expertise is exactly what you need when planning a trip of a lifetime like this. Talk to a range of overland firms and specialists such as Expert Africa, based in Isleworth, London. They will advise on the ideal location and timing for your budget. Just bear in mind that the entire safari industry in Africa uses US dollars, so the cost in puny British pounds is climbing.

Email your question to s@hols.tv or tweet @simoncalder

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Section 2



ON THIS DAY



Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC (third right) was killed on this day in 1944 (Keystone/Getty)

1258: Salisbury Cathedral was consecrated.

1842: Sir James Dewar, Scottish physician and chemist, and inventor of the vacuum flask, was born at Kincardine-on-Forth.

1854: The Battle of Alma, fought by the British against the Russians in the Crimean War, produced six winners of the Victoria Cross.

1885: Jelly Roll Morton, pianist, composer and singer and one of the first jazz musicians, was born in New Orleans.

1917: The first RSPCA animal clinic was opened in Liverpool.

1931: Britain came off the gold standard to stop foreign speculation against the pound. The devaluation brought strikes and even a near mutiny on 15 navy ships berthed in Scotland.

1944: Guy Gibson, British pilot and Victoria Cross winner for his “Dambusters” action against the Mohne and Eder dams, was killed when his aircraft crashed in Holland on its way back to base.

1946: The first Cannes film festival opened.

1961: The first non-stop swim across the Channel and back was started by Argentinian Antonio Albertondo; he successfully completed the feat after 43 hours and 10 minutes.

1984: A suicide bomber drove a lorry load of explosives at the US embassy in Beirut, killing 40 people.

On this day last year: *The Crown* finally won the top drama prize for British talent at the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards.

Birthdays

Sophia Loren, actor, 88; **Jose Rivero**, golfer, 67; **Gary Cole**, actor, 66; **Kristen Johnston**, actor, 55; **Nuno Bettencourt**, musician (Extreme), 56; **Victoria Dillard**, actor, 53; **Julian Joachim**, footballer, 48.

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Section 2/ Lifestyle

We're still fixated on the myths of female sexuality

As videos of harmful 'virginity testing' practices go viral, **Eloise Hendy** speaks to experts about why more needs to be done to end the falsehoods told about women's bodies



For centuries, the concept has been used to control and vilify women (Getty)

It's not every day that a second-year art school project makes headlines. But in October 2013, the press got wind of one Central Saint Martins student's plan for a new performance

piece, titled *Art School Stole My Virginity*. Clayton Pettet's project would, he claimed, culminate in a live event where he would have sex with a male partner for the first time, in front of an audience.

When the performance eventually rolled around the next April, however, some were left disappointed. The 120 or so people who'd bought tickets for the London event witnessed not a live "deflowering", but Pettet scrubbing words like "NSFW" and "TEEN WHORE" off his body, while a topless teenager cut off chunks of his hair. Attendees were then led downstairs to a private booth, where each person was invited to slide a banana into Pettet's mouth a number of times.

Many were quick to dub the whole thing a gimmick, no more than an elaborate art stunt, with a number of critics suggesting that Pettet manipulated the media circus for 15 minutes of rabid tabloid fame. Yet others discerned a deeper significance behind the final performance. For if it's virginity that's on the table, what could be better than an event that never really existed? If Clayton Pettet's project was "just a hype", couldn't the same be said for the concept of virginity itself?

Ness Cooper, a clinical sexologist and therapist, calls the concept of virginity "a cultural and social construct, and often one that's been used to try and justify abstinence, breeding or financial worth". Indeed, Pettet described the impetus for his project in just such terms, defining virginity as "a performance that has been used to value women; a heteronormative term constantly used to work out someone's worth".

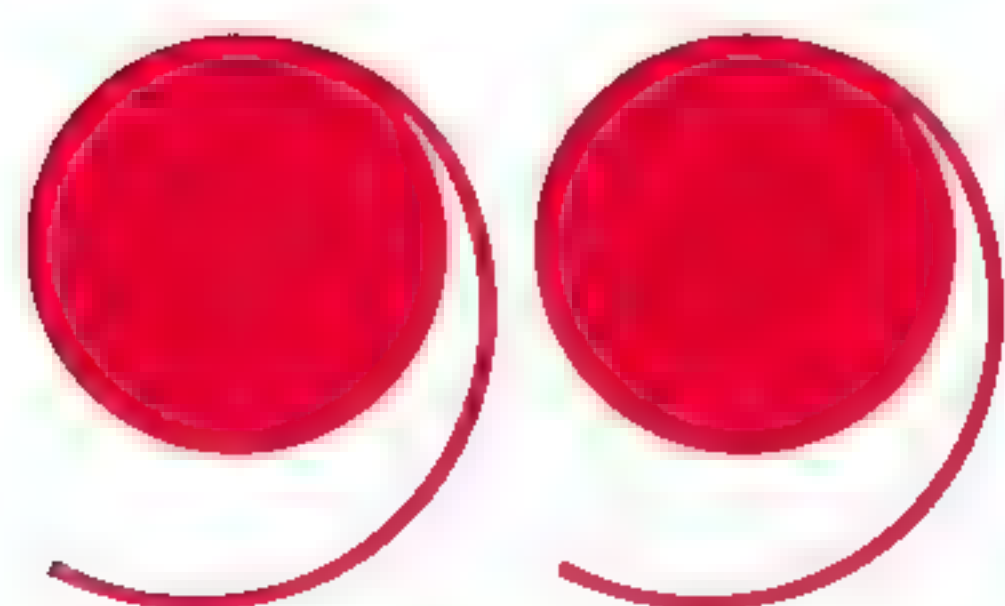
Almost a decade on, the questions *Art School Stole My Virginity* posed are still, for want of a better word, penetrating. As Pettet put it: "Is virginity even real? Or is it just an ignorant word that was used to dictate the value of a woman's worth pre-marriage?"

The concept of virginity, its validity and its value, remains controversial. In the last few weeks, social media users have reported a surge of "virginity testing" videos going viral on TikTok. Virginity testing is reportedly commonplace in more than 20 countries, through which women are deemed worthy of

marriage or employment. Much of this recent video trend centres on ceremonies performed by Roma communities in western Europe, in which a young woman's virginity is "verified" by an older, professional woman, or a *juntaora*.



The power of the belief in perpetuating this social construct has been partly responsible for causing serious mental and physical harm to girls and women all over the world



This particular "virginity test" is based on the belief that inside the body of a virgin woman there is an *uva* (grape) – a pale kernel which contains her *honra*, thought to be a yellow fluid which is spilt and "lost" when a woman is penetrated during sexual intercourse with a man, or when she is "deflowered" by a *juntaora*.

As many of the TikToks show, the "deflowering" involves pushing a forefinger wrapped in a handkerchief into the young bride's genitals, to "burst" the "grape", or, in more common parlance, "pop the cherry". A series of stains, or "roses" are then displayed to a watching crowd. The value of her worth, pre-marriage, is publicly and humiliatingly assessed.

Thinking back to *Art School Stole My Virginity*, it is somewhat ironic that performances of virginity are, in many places around the world, more socially acceptable than performances of its supposed "loss". Despite the latter involving consensual acts between adults, one display is imagined as proof of value; the other of debasement. Yet, "virginity tests" – whether involving a

woman's *honra*, or, as is the case with “two-finger tests”, her hymen – can only truthfully be described as gimmicks and elaborate stunts, as they are based in a dense web of false science and fears of female sexuality.

The essential idea that virginity is verifiable, and the body will yield its secrets to investigation, is rooted in error and falsehood. In 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO), UN Human Rights, and UN Women called on governments to ban virginity testing globally and deemed the practice “medically unnecessary”. Instead it is designed to reify the importance of female “purity”, breed a culture of shame around female desire and embodiment, and lay down the law that sex is a gift for men.

Saarrah Ray is a DPhil in law student at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on violence against women, with a particular interest in the legal regulation of female genital practices and the intersections of body image, race, gender and culture. “To put it bluntly,” she says, “‘*virginity*’ is a myth. It is nothing more than an idea attached to a useless, malleable, fleshy membrane that may or may not exist inside the vagina.”

Yet Ray makes it clear that exposing virginity as a myth does not lessen its real-world force. “The virginity myth should not be undermined,” Ray urges, “because the power of the belief in perpetuating this social construct has been partly responsible for causing serious mental and physical harm to girls and women all over the world.”

In fact, just as “virginity testing” videos were racking up views on TikTok, news broke across a number of Indian media outlets that a 24-year-old woman in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, had allegedly been forced to take a “virginity test” by her in-laws. She was then thrashed and beaten by her husband and his family after she “failed” it. Police later reported to the press that the woman had told her in-laws that, sometime before her marriage, a neighbour had raped her.



Virginity testing is reportedly commonplace in more than 20 countries (TikTok)

Violence of this nature occurs everywhere. “We now know that girls and women have experienced such harm here,” Ray says, “in British clinics, at the hands of healthcare professionals.” They are “subjected to two particular practices in which the virginity myth explicitly manifests: virginity testing and hymenoplasty”.

Last year, an undercover investigation revealed that dozens of private hospitals in the UK were promising to “restore virginity” through hymenoplasty – a surgical procedure that aims to ensure that a woman will bleed the next time she has penetrative sex, so that she can pass the virginity test. Health professionals and campaigners have condemned both practices as a form of violence against women and girls.

Yet, there are signs that, in the UK at least, the law is finally catching up to the harm the virginity myth causes. Earlier this year, the government added an amendment to the Health and Care Bill that made hymenoplasty and virginity tests illegal. Ray describes the move as “monumental for the feminist movement,” as it clearly demonstrates that UK law “proscribes forced actions upon girls and women that reduces their bodies to sexual vessels, and that degrades and subordinates the value or worth of their lives.”

But, if the law is shifting, what about culture? Changing laws may not be enough to end harmful, pseudo-scientific beliefs about virginity, nor social expectations of female sexual “purity”. Ray admits that it’s “unlikely” that the law can solely change people’s views on sex. She hopes, however, that the criminalisation of virginity tests and hymenoplasty in the UK “may be the beginning [of] having factual discussions about sex, specifically sex positivity, and dismantling double standards that effectively conceals violence against women and girls.”

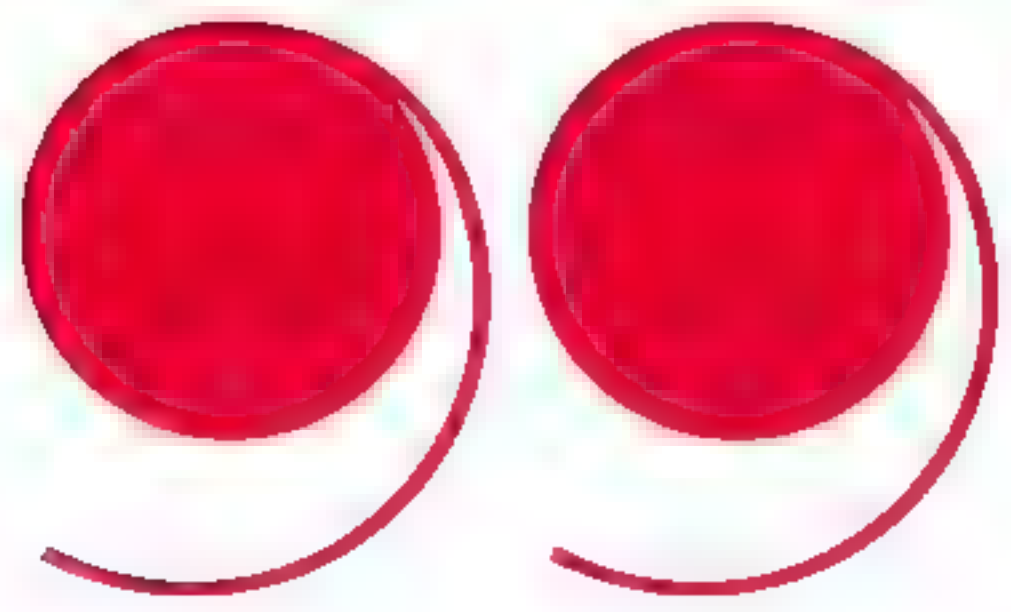
Kalila Bolton and Holly Jackson are the co-founders of “woman’s sexual wellness brand” SheSpot. Both acknowledge the importance of the amendment to the Health and Care Bill, but say they “still feel like there is a lot of work to be done to fully tear down archaic ideas of sex and virginity”. After launching SheSpot in 2021, Jackson says she has often been “surprised by how deeply rooted sexual shame and stigma is among the women who we speak to,” and how this cuts across all ages. “There are still stubborn taboos around self pleasure in particular,” Jackson says.

In their research, they “heard several accounts of male partners expressing discomfort with their wives/girlfriends masturbating outside of partnered sex,” something that, to Jackson, “feels like an extension of outdated views around virginity and the idea of gifting sex to men.”

For Elena Zaharova, CEO and co-founder of sex and relationships app Purpur, the essential issue is a broader lack of consideration or respect for pleasure when it comes to sex education. In her view, it still treats sex as “an act of intimate physical interaction between people, not an attempt at communication or pleasure”.



Sex education within the UK is moving away from abstinence-based education ... the focus is more on teaching about consensual sex and normalising healthy sexual behaviour rather than shaming



Jackson and Bolton agree, and suggest this “lack of knowledge around healthy sex and pleasure, paired with increased consumption of unchecked online content” is leading to “a perfect storm” for young people. They believe it is this toxic combination that is “perpetuating harmful ideas relating to sex and virginity” and fuelling “the viral nature of the TikTok videos showing virginity testing”.

Ness Cooper, founder of The Sex Consultant, also stresses that part of the challenge in changing deeply ingrained cultural ideas about purity and pleasure is working against conservative-minded algorithms. “TikTok algorithms sadly stigmatise and are more likely to remove sex-positive posts,” she notes, “and keep posts that focus on sex-negative and stigmatising outlooks such as virginity testing.”

However, there are also reasons to be optimistic. “Sex education within the UK is moving away from abstinence-based education,” Cooper says. Now, “the focus is more on teaching about consensual sex and normalising healthy sexual behaviour rather than shaming.” A broader, more sex positive curriculum – which centres queer sex and relationships, self pleasure and consent – paired with a change in the law, will, Cooper hopes, go a long way to countering the “perfect storm” of myth and

unchecked online content. “I predict things like virginity testing will become less popular over time.”

Ultimately, then, perhaps what is needed is more frantic discussion, public performance, and elaborate stunts from art school students. Except, rather than working from shock, shame and myth, starting and ending with acceptance, comfort, and pleasure.

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Section 2/ Lifestyle

A nod to bodily autonomy

The British designer Christopher Kane pays homage to female sexuality at London Fashion Week, says **Olivia Petter**

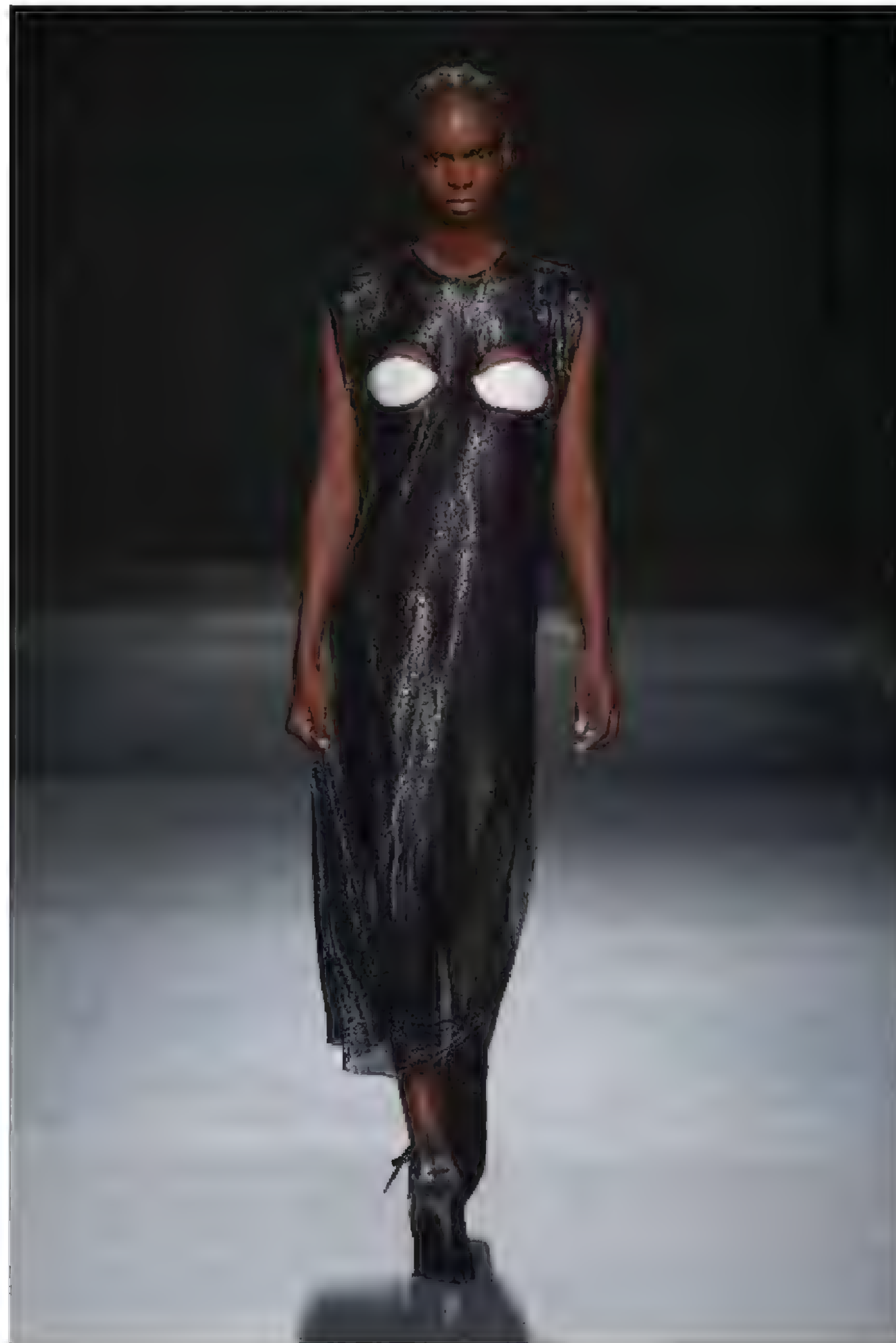


Models show off pieces from Kane's 2023 spring/summer collection on Sunday (Getty)

Christopher Kane knows good sex. That sentence will make sense if you are familiar with Kane's work – and have also watched *Sex and the City*. To the uninitiated, though, an introduction: since its inception in 2006, the Scottish designer's namesake brand has become known for its sensual, seductive aesthetic that puts women's bodies front and centre. Leather and lace are common fixtures. As are gaping cut-outs in unexpectedly flattering zones.

Even his More Joy spin-off label is a celebration of the female provocateur – with the word “SEX” printed on everything from T-shirts and eyemasks to tote bags and bucket hats. Kane’s is an aesthetic that suits the Carrie Bradshaws of this world: playful, irreverent, unapologetically carnal.

This is the first time Kane has shown at London Fashion Week since before the pandemic. His shows have always been a perennial highlight on the calendar, meaning his return to the schedule came as a pleasant surprise, particularly because so many of the industry’s other big hitters – Burberry and Roksanda – bowed out this season due to the 10-day period of mourning for the Queen.



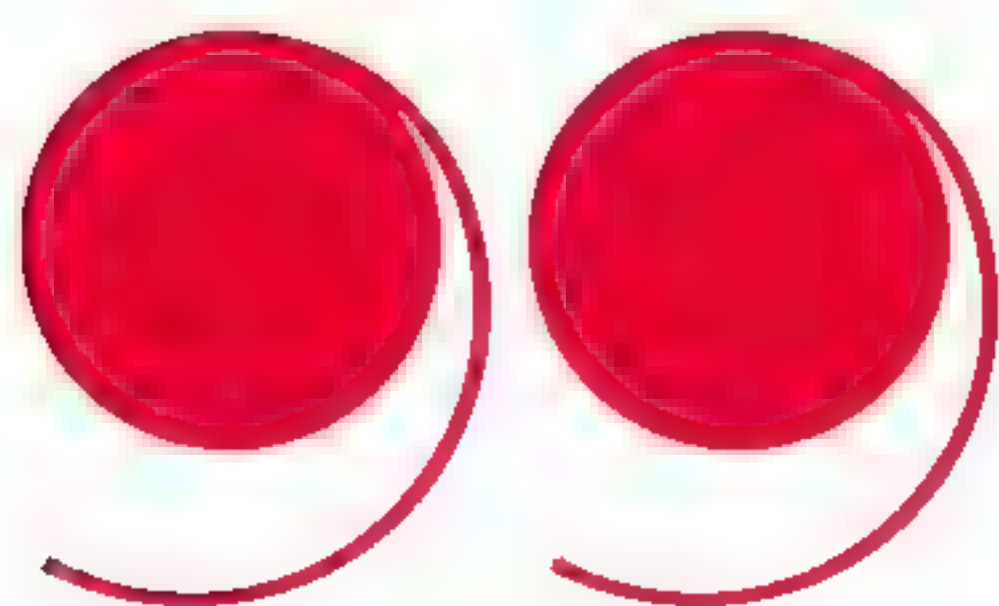
The designer experiments with cut-outs (Shutterstock)

On the evening of the show, the national moment of mourning was dutifully observed, with guests told to arrive at Camden's Roundhouse by 7.50pm in order to mark the minute's silence. However, many of us had our silent moment outside of the venue because, well, everyone was running fashionably late, so to speak.

An unusually vast space for a fashion show, the Roundhouse was energised by a herd of editors, buyers, and A-list models, including Daisy Lowe, Lara Stone and Jourdan Dunn. Vibrations were even higher as the lights went down and the soundtrack – thumping house music – began to blare out across one of north London's most-loved live music venues.



Kane's is an aesthetic that suits the Carrie Bradshaws of this world: playful, irreverent, unapologetically carnal



Organza two-pieces came first, in mint greens and pale pinks. Lace trims lined the sides of skirts, as slits stretched up to the hips. Modest variations came when said skirts were styled underneath slouchy grey-buttoned cardigans, while nighties were reimagined as separates.

Entirely laced-out looks included a sculptural lemon yellow frock that could be appropriate for a summer wedding, and a black tutu with cut-outs on the bodice that definitely wouldn't. We also saw a series of floral creations, with bold blooms covering mini dresses with high necks and capped sleeves.

Classic Kane nods to sex and sexuality came via bondage-like plastic fastenings that buckled across the body underneath lace bralets resembling caging. “It was about both protecting and dissecting,” Kane told *Vogue*.



Body language: prints of muscular and skeletal diagrams featured on dresses and skirts (Shutterstock)

One of the most interesting features of the collection, though, was the attention to the human body. Dresses and skirts were covered in prints of muscular and skeletal diagrams, with one silk dress bearing two hands crossed over the pelvis, while another saw two hands stretching over the breasts. “I was thinking about the anti-abortion movement in America,” Kane

told *British Vogue* ahead of the show. “A lot about medical practices and women’s bodies.”

The shoes were another highlight. Spiky pointed boots in black and scarlet leather stomped in time with the heavy bassline reverberating around the venue. Some also came in silver, and boasted double spikes on the front stretching up towards the calves.

Championing women and bodily autonomy, this was a confident return to the runway for Kane. Not that it was in doubt he’d bring sexy back.

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ROYAL READS

Victoria Howard on the best books about Queen Elizabeth II

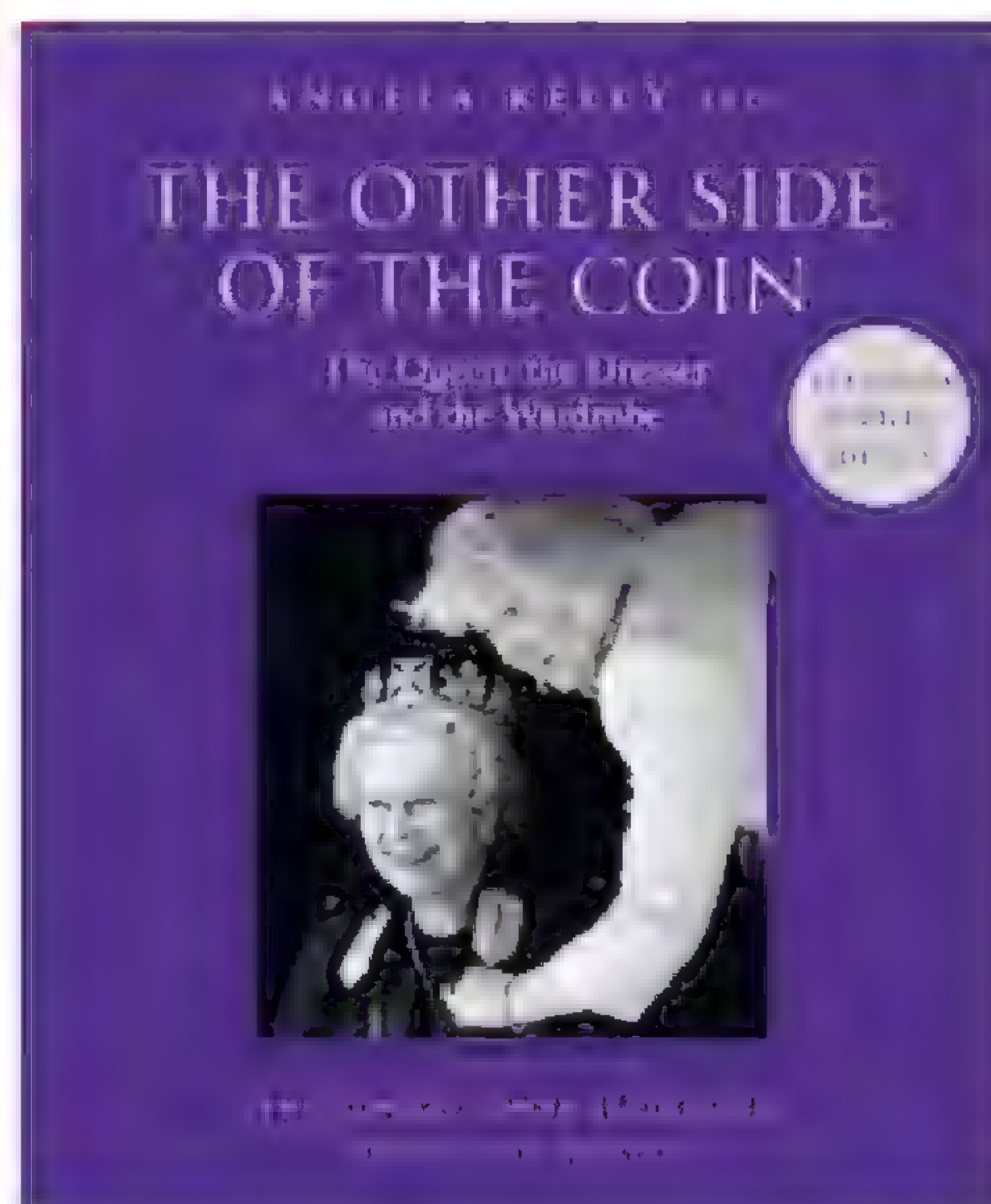


For many of us, we felt as if we knew the Queen. A constant in our lives, on the money we use and on our TV screens each Christmas, it is easy to understand how people have been moved by her death. She was a well-respected and popular figure, and a cohesive force for the nation.

Elizabeth II was not just a bystander to historic events, she and her own family were at the heart of numerous memorable occasions including the positive, such as her numerous jubilees, and the weddings of her grandchildren, from William to Beatrice. However, during this time the family also saw the death of Diana in 1997, and the Sussexes deciding to step down as senior royals and move to the US. While 2019 saw Prince Andrew's car-crash *Newsnight* interview, and sexual abuse allegations.

But did we truly know the real Lilibet? Famously, she never gave a true interview, and her inner circle was impenetrable. Discretion has always been, and remains, the watchword of the royal household. The closest we have got were her annual Christmas speeches, which she penned herself.

The next best things, then, are books, written by those who knew her, worked with her, or have a flare for research and storytelling. These books are recommended to offer a better glimpse into the Queen's personal life – behind the baize doors of the palaces and the bright coats that made up her working 'uniform' – as well as offering a deeper understanding of her work as monarch, a role she performed for 70 years.



'The Other Side of the Coin' by Angela Kelly: £12.50, WHSmith

Penned by The Queen's dresser and confidante, *The Other Side of the Coin* is a must-read to find out about the Queen from someone who knew her in a distinctly intimate way. While there is a large biographical element to the book, detailing Angela Kelly's journey from Liverpool to the palace and her 25-year royal career, she shares her insights into how the royal wardrobe works and offers us a real look at the off-duty Queen: a funny, caring and simple woman.

Dubbed "the Queen's Gatekeeper" thanks to her forthright manner and protective nature of the monarch, Kelly shares not only personal photos, but anecdotes that touch at the heart of the Queen's personality. Such was their bond, the Queen not only authorised a three-book deal for her dresser, she ensured Kelly would retain her grace-and-favour apartment in Windsor, following Charles' accession, which is a noticeable departure from convention.

Buy now



'Queen of the World' by Robert Hardman: £8.99, Blackwells

This account is well-researched by veteran royal writer Robert Hardman, who focuses on the quiet diplomatic career of the Queen and her international influence. What makes this so compelling is that we don't often see or understand the sway the

Queen had – a passing comment here, a well-timed invite there, and the impact such seemingly innocent actions could have.

But Hardman shows us the successes Elizabeth II achieved, in particular with the Commonwealth, which he suggests has only endured due to the Queen's popularity. This book is a real eye-opener to the influence the soft power of the monarchy can wield and how Elizabeth II was accomplished in knowing how and when to dispense it. You're left with a feeling that King Charles III really does have big shoes to fill.

Buy now



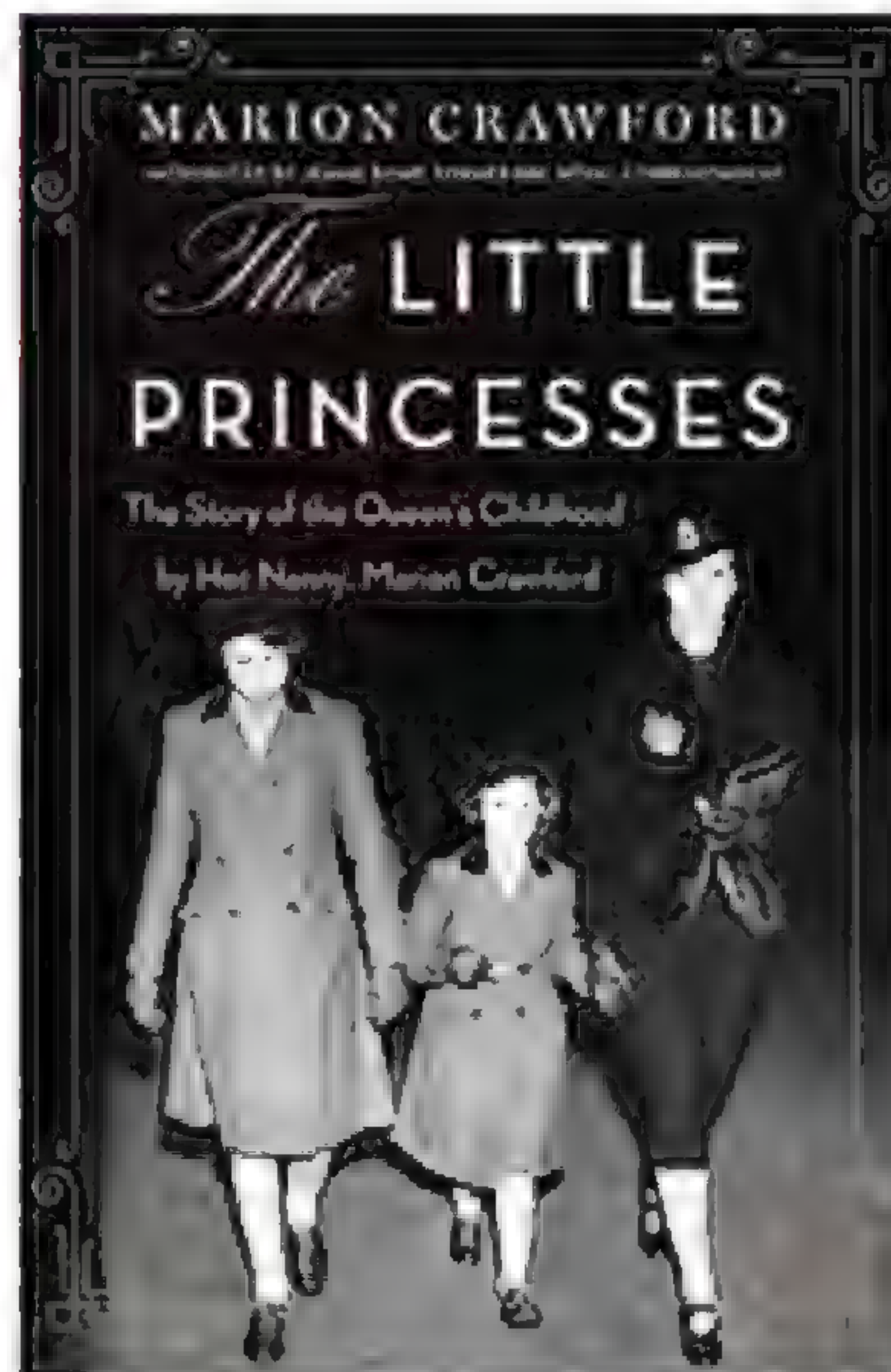
‘The Queen’ by Matthew Dennison: £16.49, Blackwells

Dennison's biography is worth the effort of the sometimes-stilted language to get closer to the real Elizabeth. He deftly weaves together a wealth of sources, painting the late monarch as a dedicated and humble public servant, with a pragmatic approach to her work. She used the soft power she had skillfully, and never assumed the people's affection or loyalty.

The author is willing to probe into family issues – such as the failure of three out of four children's marriages – and, with this being a newer work, is able to hint at the connection between the decline in influence the Queen had over her family since

2017, following the retirement of Prince Philip and the departure of her private secretary Sir Christopher Geidt, with the likes of the Duke of York's car-crash interview, and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's abrupt departure.

Buy now



‘The Little Princesses’ by Marion Crawford: £9.99, Waterstones

Published in 1950, Marion Crawford, also known as Crawfie, was governess to Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. This sympathetic, and almost sycophantic, assessment of their childhoods, through the eyes of someone who helped shape them, offers insightful tales of Elizabeth's personality – generally an obedient, tidy, and well-behaved child, traits that have served her well.

Crawford saw Lilibet grow into a teenager who took on the royal duties given to her with “immense seriousness and zeal”, but Crawford was ostracised for putting pen to paper, and later attempted suicide. A must for those with an interest in the Queen and how she came to be the person she was.

Buy now



**‘The Queen: Elizabeth II and the Monarchy’ by Ben Pimlott:
£12.99, Amazon**

Ben Pimlott’s book is a hefty but absorbing one, covering the decades of the Queen’s reign until 2002, with a sharp focus on the political side of royal life.

Updated for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Pimlott assesses how the Queen was the link in the Commonwealth, arguably her greatest legacy, and highlights parts of the role we sometimes forget, such as the weight that comes with such responsibility and the sheer boredom that must accompany handshakes and small talk week in, week out. For those more interested in the official side of royal life, rather than the gossip and family drama, this should be on your bookshelf.

Buy now



‘At Home with The Queen: Life Through the Keyhole of the Royal Household’ by Brian Hoey: £8.49, Amazon

Little has changed in the royal world since Brian Hoey unpicked the intricacies of royal life and workings of the palace in the early millennium. Though not specifically about the Queen herself, gaining knowledge of the world she operated in helps to better understand the person she was.

We learn titbits such as the Queen had longer bedsheets than Prince Philip, as she preferred a “deeper turnback” to her bed (they had separate rooms to ease the burden of busy diaries), and that she looked forward to hearing the piper who woke her up each morning. The book enables us to see the quirks of royal personalities – the Queen’s devotion to her corgis, and Princess Anne’s forthright nature – as well as how the household functions with hundreds of members of staff and numerous departments, so alien to many of us.

Buy now

The verdict

Every couple of years, biographers and historians try to approach the Queen’s life with a fresh viewpoint, so it’s a very

crowded topic area. No doubt, there are more in the pipeline, which can now span her life in its entirety.

Highly recommended titles go to *The Little Princesses*, as an intimate portrait of an aristocratic girl who knew not her future as Britain's stalwart head of state, and to Robert Hardman's assessment of the soft power Elizabeth II wielded, which we often think is very limited. Our favourite book of this selection, however, is Angela Kelly's *The Other Side of the Coin*, thanks to her 25 years of personal access to the monarch and the details she gives about how the private side of royal life works. With biographical elements bringing Kelly – a rather unknown figure – herself to life, it makes for entertaining and now slightly sombre reading of the Queen's life and schedule, from someone who would sit and watch TV with perhaps the world's most famous woman.

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Business

Third of businesses failed to benefit from rates discount



The data indicates that 128,000 high-street businesses missed out on the promised relief (PA)

HENRY SAKER-CLARK

The government failed to support a third of high-street businesses in England that were promised a discount on their business rates bill, according to new data. Property specialists at Gerald Eve found that just 272,000 out of a promised 400,000 businesses, including retailers and leisure and hospitality

venues, were able to claim the 50 per cent discount on commercial property tax that was announced at the last Budget.

The data comes from freedom of information requests to councils in England, asking them how many businesses in their area had benefited from the discount.

Business rates relief was handed to companies in sectors heavily affected by pandemic closures, in an effort to aid the recovery of the high street. The data indicates that 128,000 businesses missed out on the discount, and has led to calls for the government to ensure that any new support for businesses at the upcoming mini-Budget is properly targeted.

The principal reason for only two-thirds of businesses having been able to access the 50 per cent discount is that the former chancellor placed a cap of £110,000 on the amount that each business can receive, rather than each property. This means that retailers and hospitality operators with multiple sites will only benefit from the discount in relation to some of their properties.

It comes as industry experts warned that businesses could face a crippling £4.7bn total increase in business rates next year without action. UKHospitality is among the industry bodies to have called for a further business-rates holiday as well as a VAT cut, to help businesses facing mammoth cost inflation and waning consumer sentiment, in the update due to be announced on Friday.

Gerald Eve also called on the government to extend the 50 per cent discount into next year to support businesses.

Without an extension of the discount, the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors – which were among those hit hardest by the pandemic – can expect their business rates bill to soar by £1.7bn. This is in addition to rates going up by the CPI (consumer prices index) inflation level for September, which economists predict could be around 10 per cent.

Jerry Schurder, business rates policy lead at Gerald Eve, said: “The new chancellor must avoid the mistakes of his predecessor when he announces support for businesses on Friday. Naturally,

a lot of the attention will be on support for sky-high energy bills, but there will be little point if those same firms see their business rates soar.

“In the 2019 manifesto, the Conservatives promised a fundamental review of rates and a reduction in the burden on the retail sector, but three years later, as good as nothing has been delivered. The new prime minister told businesses she wanted to intervene in reforming rates. Now she must deliver.”

PA

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Business

Six million disabled people receive £150 for bills crisis



People with disabilities often face higher related costs, such as for care and mobility needs (PA)

VICKY SHAW

Around 6 million people will receive a one-off £150 disability cost-of-living payment from today. Those in receipt of a qualifying disability benefit will be paid automatically.

The vast majority of those eligible are expected to receive their payment by the start of October, the government has said.

People with disabilities often face higher related costs, such as care and mobility needs.

Those who may be eligible include people receiving the disability living allowance, personal independence payment, attendance allowance, Scottish disability benefits (adult disability payment and child disability payment), the armed forces independence payment, constant attendance allowance, or the war pension mobility supplement.

The payments are part of a package of support as costs soar. More than eight million eligible households in receipt of a means-tested benefit received the first of two automatic cost-of-living payments from 14 July. The second payment, of £324, will be issued later this year.

From 1 October, a new energy price guarantee will mean an average household will pay no more than £2,500 a year on their energy bill for the next two years. Further details about measures to help households and businesses are expected this week.

Those expecting cost-of-living payments are being urged to be alert to fraudsters asking for their personal details through texts and emails. More information about the UK government's cost-of-living support is available at helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk.

PA

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Grealish off the mark but De Bruyne sets standard



The midfielder produced his best display of the season after backing from Pep Guardiola (Getty)

RICHARD JOLLY

SENIOR FOOTBALL WRITER

It was not the complaint that a midfielder who specialises in delivering goals and assists in copious quantities might have been expected to voice. “We work in a day and age where everyone talks just about goals and assists,” said Kevin De Bruyne. His last two trips to Molineux have yielded four goals

and three assists, rendering him a topic for conversation and praise alike. By creating two goals on Saturday, he drew level with Steven Gerrard on 92 in the Premier League's all-time assist charts and, by the end of next season, he may overhaul Cesc Fabregas, who mustered 111, and stand second only to Ryan Giggs who has 162.

It is a record that is still more remarkable when his 35 Bundesliga assists are factored in. Judge De Bruyne on the end product and he is a creative phenomenon as well as a player who had the most prolific season of his career last year before reverting more to the role of supplier after Erling Haaland's arrival.

Judge Jack Grealish on his goals and his assists and he looks unexceptional. De Bruyne's selflessness is often shown when he picks out a teammate in a better position and the man who has unlocked many a defence defended Grealish. The Belgian scored 15 league goals last season, five times as many as the Englishman. De Bruyne nevertheless echoed his manager's regular refrain that he does not judge players on goals.

It can be Pep Guardiola at his most esoteric, putting him at odds with both the wider world and Manchester City's record signing. "All my career I haven't scored enough goals," reflected Grealish after a belated first of the campaign. "I do want to add that to my game." A teammate could be a role model: De Bruyne is four years Grealish's senior but their respective tallies for clubs and country stand at a vast 158 and a relatively meagre 45 respectively.



Grealish and De Bruyne helped City to a commanding 3-0 win at Wolves (Getty)

Grealish may be the mesmeric dribbler but De Bruyne is the entertainer who also has a purposeful productivity. The £100m man can be a magnet for the ball and criticism alike. De Bruyne argues much of it stems from his price tag and his nationality. A Jack-the-lad persona can endear Grealish to many, but also bring added attention. If there is an English premium to transfer fees, De Bruyne thinks locals are also disadvantaged when it comes to coverage.

“It is not about football,” he said. “Outside of football, the focus is more on them. I understand because they are English and people tend to look more what is happening. I feel like foreign players, if you have a night out, we don’t really get checked that often. Whereas I feel if an English player goes out, it is always in the media somewhere. I think people are taking this on board also. What he does in his private life he does, nobody should care, but people do.”

De Bruyne believes references to the £100m fee can be a case of playing the man, rather than the ball, asking for greater understanding of Grealish’s circumstances. “I don’t feel people [who criticise] tend to care about persons anyway,” he said. “They try to see the facts and talk about the money and talk about all the rest around it. I don’t feel anybody necessarily thinks about how he felt moving away for the first time and people think it is always easy to do that.”

Yet it can be natural that price tags confer expectation. A contribution always extends beyond goals and assists, as he said, but eight City players scored more than Grealish last season; 10 made more goals. If scrutiny comes with money, it is also a consequence of joining a club higher up the league. If Grealish ever won the numbers game, it was during his last season at Aston Villa, when 24 starts produced six goals and 10 assists. Yet trading his hometown club for the champions took him into a more pressurised environment.



De Bruyne defended Grealish and accepted the England international faces much more scrutiny (Getty)

“With all due respect, he was at Villa before and if you lose a game sometimes it is not the end of the world,” De Bruyne said. “But if we lose a game it is different.” As Grealish can testify, victory can bring an inquest, too. He conceded he may have been fortunate to retain his place after an unimpressive performance against Borussia Dortmund. “It probably wasn’t my best,” he said.

And that openness is an appealing trait. De Bruyne may have taken aim at Grealish’s doubters, but players who were on the same wavelength after 55 seconds on Saturday struck different notes. Grealish is commendably candid. People have been questioning him. “Rightly so,” he said. He detects room for improvement. “I am always going to have people talking about me with the amount I got bought for.”

Thus far, the big numbers refer to the sum City spent, not Grealish's attacking output. He has been the anti-De Bruyne, bailed out by his more clinical colleagues. De Bruyne laid Grealish's first goal of the season on a plate. But regardless of cost or nationality, he knows he needs plenty more. If everyone is talking about goals and assists, that includes Grealish himself.

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Gueye adds old-fashioned graft to new-look Everton



West Ham's £50m Brazilian Lucas Paqueta was snuffed out by Idrissa Gueye at Goodison on Sunday, the flair player smothered into ineffectiveness (Getty)

RICHARD JOLLY

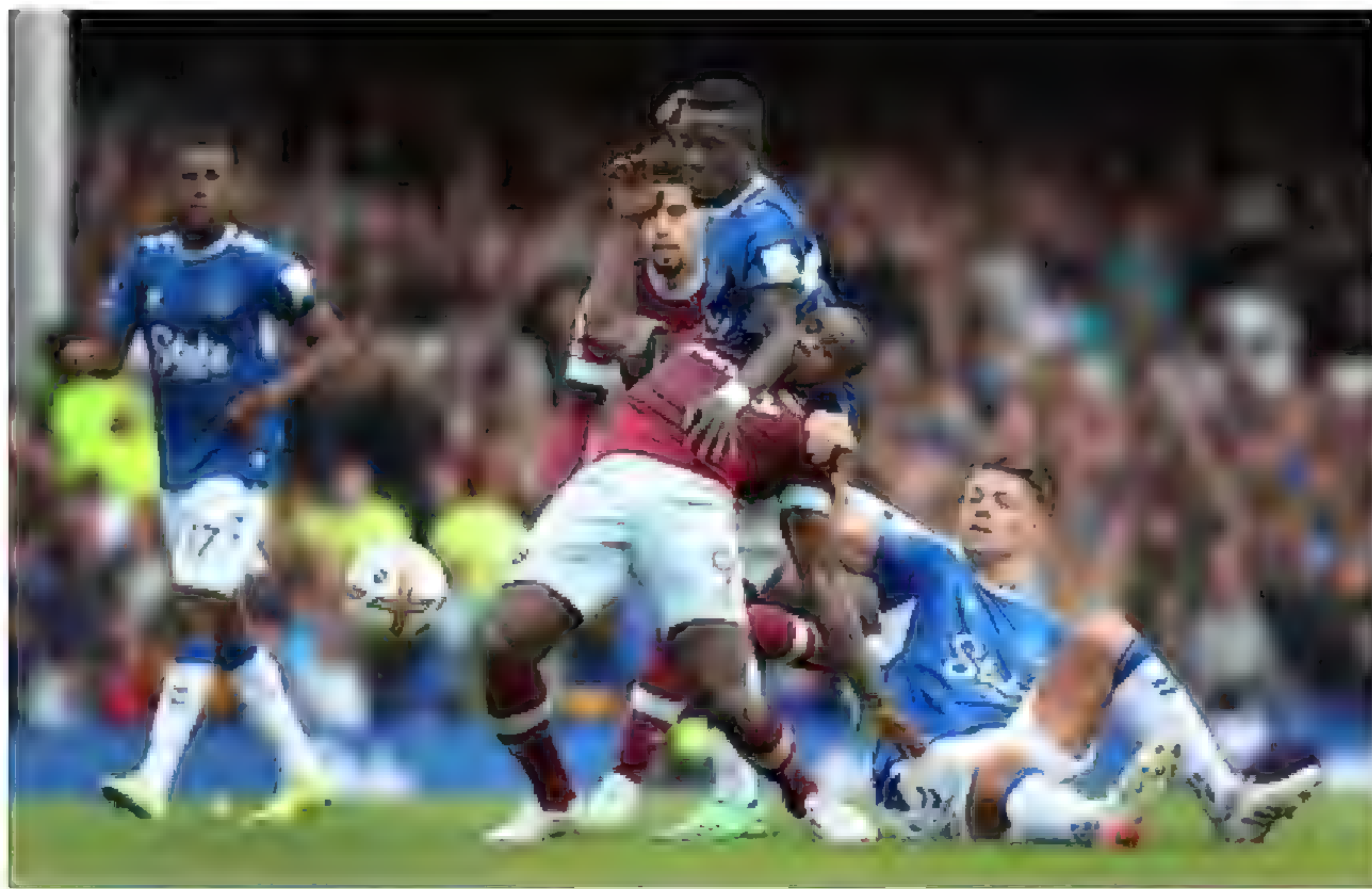
It was almost four minutes into stoppage time, with West Ham requiring a goal, that Gianluca Scamacca did something they may have wished someone had done much sooner. He flattened Idrissa Gueye.

It scarcely helped their cause for an equaliser – indeed, it used up precious time, while the Italian collected a caution for a forceful challenge as each competed for a header – but perhaps it made him feel better. If it was one way of stopping Gueye, it was the only one West Ham found.

On a day when Everton revisited their past, when they welcomed back two of their finer servants of the 21st century, Gueye's second full debut brought defeat for David Moyes. Many an Everton signing of the post-Moyes era has been sufficiently wretched that the only thing worse than buying them once would be to recruit them for a second time. There is no clamour for a comeback from Davy Klaassen or Jean-Philippe Gbamin, Cenk Tosun or Moise Kean, Yannick Bolasie or Ashley Williams. Gueye was different: the finest part of Steve Walsh's legacy, from his ill-fated time as director of football, and, along with Dominic Calvert-Lewin, the best buy of the Farhad Moshiri era.

If there is too little competition for that title during a time when they spent half a billion and wasted much of it, Gueye was acquired the first time for £7m, the second for £2m. His return could be described in other numbers, of tackles and interceptions and blocks or even passes and pass completion rate when an essentially destructive presence showed his constructive side. If it was apparent in his air of authority, it was also evident in a tale of two summer signings. Lucas Paqueta represents Moyes's biggest ever buy. The £50m Brazilian was snuffed out by Gueye, the flair player smothered into ineffectiveness.

Frank Lampard's new-look Everton benefited from the blast from the past. "I think so and I think he will get even better," Lampard said. "He has played in the Premier League and to be out for a few years, with a different pace of league, it is probably not easy but I thought he played really well: quality on the ball, a calming influence on the ball, positional awareness off the ball and the ability to win the ball back."



Gueye sums up the new ethos Frank Lampard is trying to instil (Getty)

Lampard cited the balance of the midfield: Gueye was flanked by a young player, in Amadou Onana, and a midfielder, in Alex Iwobi, who was a revelation when reinvented as a No 8. His history bodes well. Gueye was the facilitator in his first spell at Goodison. Andre Gomes now belongs in the ranks of the misfits, an expensive signing who was loaned out but briefly formed a fine partnership with the Senegalese as a sidekick. Maybe that reflects Gueye's ability to do the work of two men. Even eight days from his 33rd birthday, it remains. He can Hoover everything up.

Gueye has the look of a player with another gear if needs to accelerate further. It makes him the indictment of a supposed successor. It can feel a trick of the birth certificates that Allan is 16 months younger than Gueye as Carlo Ancelotti's old ally did not even make the bench, his Everton career sent into a tailspin by his immobility. He is now the seventh-choice central midfielder and the common denominator among the six men ahead of him – Gueye, Onana, Iwobi, Abdoulaye Doucoure, James Garner and Tom Davies – is an ability to run. Allan cannot. Lampard's verdict on his future was a non-committal: "We'll see."

Indirectly, Lampard was damning of him, along with many of the players he inherited. He felt Everton struggled in the spine of the side last season. "We are starting to fix some things: we are harder to beat, we don't concede so much," he said.

Gueye sums up the new ethos and Lampard's vision has been a pragmatic one. In the first half, Everton's lack of a playmaker felt like a shortcoming. It will cost them in other matches but heavy industry and a fine finish from Neal Maupay brought a first win of the season.

The scorer's identity showed the difference between the downwardly mobile Gueye's last two clubs. The previous time a teammate struck with him on the pitch, it was Lionel Messi. After the Paris Saint-Germain Galacticos, he has the Everton Grafticos. A star vehicle has been traded for a club whose running power comes from the energy in Lampard's side.

Even amid the mayhem of some terrible decision-making, Gueye indicated the difference a high-class defensive midfielder can make. Everton never finished outside the top eight in his time at Goodison or in it since he left. Now they are in 13th and even that is their highest position in 2022. If that shows how far they fell, and if a win came because West Ham played poorly, Idrissa Gueye can specialise in making opponents play badly.

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Seagulls look to take flight under new boss De Zerbi



Italian Roberto De Zerbi takes over Brighton after Graham Potter's move to Chelsea (Getty)

KARL MATCHETT

Possession, patience, penetration from wide areas.

These are all facets of the game Brighton and Hove Albion fans are already well-acquainted with, so it won't be too much of a surprise to learn that they are notable traits also associated with incoming head coach Roberto De Zerbi.

A couple of others which have not been quite as notable in the Italian boss's repertoire, so far at least, are protection of the defence and picking up major trophies, but there's good reason to suspect both could follow in time as he now resumes a career which had been on a decidedly upward trajectory.

The new man at the Amex Stadium is one of Europe's most tactically exciting and relatively young bosses who opts to coach in the same way he wished to play, albeit with already more success in the dugout than he managed on the pitch.

It's a fantastically ambitious pick-up by Brighton to succeed Graham Potter, a head coach who perhaps shouldn't be freely available on the market – and wouldn't be if not for external factors – and who offers them continuity in some respects, but also a similar risk/reward approach to the club's own improvement that De Zerbi's football style has itself habitually carried.

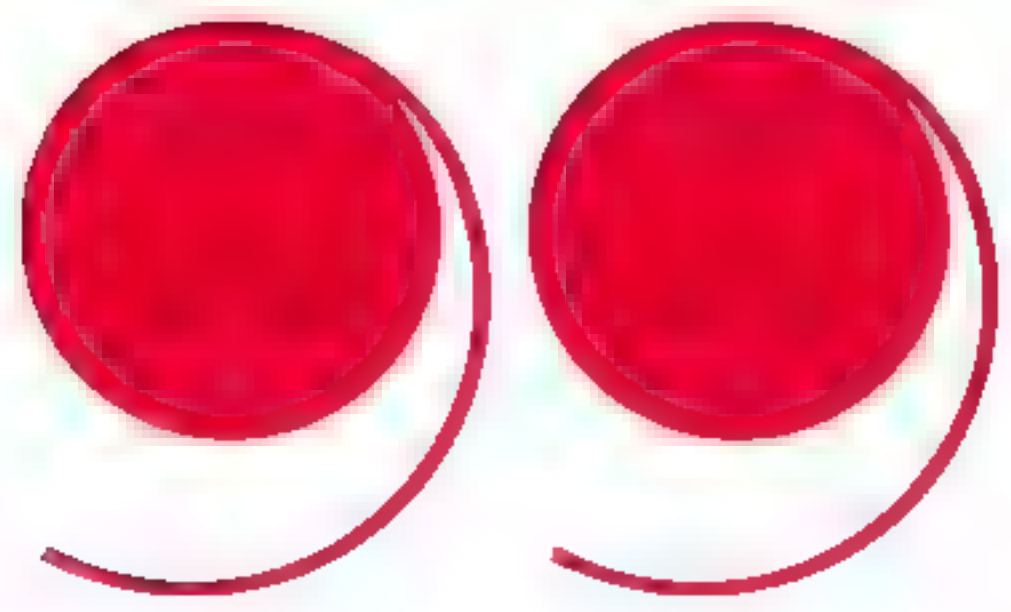
Potter, of course, took the Seagulls from a side battling at the bottom in every sense of the word, to a much more attack-minded, free-flowing team who can mix it with the best on their day. They are still looking to punch above their weight in terms of salary bill and transfer clout, but doing so in a way which makes them an attractive side to watch – or indeed to join.

His replacement is now tasked with doing the same, having left Shakhtar Donetsk earlier this year due to the invasion of Ukraine.

De Zerbi, 43, is a straight-talking and insightful entertainer. He's absolutely committed to the idea of football as an outlet for both expression and enjoyment and gets his teams playing accordingly... in very quick fashion. Beyond his formative spells with Darfo Boario, Foggia and Palermo – the latter a typically short stint at that club – he impressed with Benevento despite relegation from Serie A, having taken over partway through the 2017/18 campaign.



At Sassuolo, a chaotic and energetic approach to losing the ball could be equal parts exciting to watch, rewarding to get right and costly to be bypassed with



That summer he then took over at Sassuolo, his three years there yielding plaudits, progression and eventually a move to a side tasked with claiming silverware and regular European action, in Shakhtar.

Upon arriving he made it clear that he would continue his patented style of playing to win through glorious spectacle: “The way to achieve success must be chosen at the beginning of the path,” he said at his unveiling. “It’s clear that victory, success, is the final straight. But as a coach, I must select the path for the team to take. If, for example, you score a set-piece goal or after 20 passes in a row, you can win in both cases, but those are two different ways of achieving success.”

That is what Brighton will now expect, with some differentiation between his style and Potter’s.

De Zerbi has regularly been a 4-2-3-1 coach, favouring possession in deep areas to draw opponents out of shape, then extremely rapid progressions along the ground to move upfield and beyond the first lines of pressure.

It is not uncommon to see his defensive players – very much including the goalkeeper – retain the ball between them for surprisingly long spells, awaiting the chance to find the all-important double-pivot who can take it on the turn and set the

team upfield. Inside forwards start touchline-wide and attack in unison, with a No 10 acting both as an aid in progressing possession and as a real scoring threat. Not too much of this is vastly different to Potter's Brighton – despite an inverted centre-of-the-park triangle for the most part – with even the tendency to push up one full-back into a 3-4-3 or 3-2-5 shape a familiar one by now to Amex regulars during periods of sustained pressure.

Off the ball is where change will be seen.

It's tough to draw too many conclusions from his cut-short spell in eastern Europe, which lasted just 30 matches from appointment to invasion.



De Zerbi left Shakhtar Donetsk earlier this year due to the invasion of Ukraine (AFP/Getty)

But at Sassuolo, a chaotic and energetic approach to losing the ball could be equal parts exciting to watch, rewarding to get right and costly to be bypassed with.

Fast closing down and aggressive one-on-one challenges in the middle could be beaten by switches of play or long balls behind the midfield, leading to rapid counters and plenty conceded. Defending set plays and crosses was also an issue, especially with too many green and black shirts caught ahead of the ball. That's all in contrast to the organised lines in place at Brighton over the past year or so; at the time De Zerbi takes over as head

coach, the Seagulls have the best defensive record in the Premier League.

As a player, he spent most of his career in the second tier after being a youngster at AC Milan. He was a playmaker, a No 10, but at a time when 4-4-2 reigned supreme throughout much of Europe, with no tolerance for the maverick who was anything less than elite.

Now it's almost a requirement that top-tier teams have regimented awareness out of possession, well-drilled individuals within a team ecosystem.

It will, therefore, be hugely interesting to watch the development of a trainer who himself acknowledged that he "wears" the same No 10 on his back as a coach that he did as a player. "I don't want [players as] soldiers," he said before a Champions League match against Real Madrid last year. "There are 11 people who need another to coordinate them. But on the field the choice of the play, the pass, the dribble, the shot, the occupation of one position to the detriment of another, I want it to correspond 100 per cent to the footballers. Because today in football – and in life – there is much less courage and much less personality than 20 years ago."

A man who has brought his own personality to the forefront of Italian and European football, more successfully as a manager than he did as a player, will now look to do the same on these shores. Don't expect it to be dull, whichever way it pans out.

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WSL returns with upsets, hot shots and controversy



Liverpool stunned defending champions Chelsea at Prenton Park on Sunday (Liverpool FC/Getty)

SARAH RENDELL

The Women's Super League is back and fans were treated to a thrilling weekend with two shock results in particular.

Defending champions Chelsea fell to a 2-1 defeat to newly promoted Liverpool and Manchester City lost to Aston Villa for the first time in the league.

Despite the two giants of English football not picking up any points, the top of the table still has familiar faces.

Arsenal and Manchester United are joint top after both winning their openers 4-0. But the unexpected turn of events has already blown the league wide open.

Here are five things we learned.

Man City feel Walsh's absence

England's Keira Walsh was among a whole host of stars who left Manchester City this summer but she is arguably their biggest loss. The defensive midfielder, who won Euro 2022 with England in July, is one of the best players in the world right now.

She exited City for Barcelona for a record fee in women's football. It was clear the English club didn't want to lose her, rejecting an initial offer, but Walsh reportedly made it clear she wanted a new challenge and she was reluctantly permitted to head to Catalonia.

Manager Gareth Taylor had tempered fans' expectations ahead of their clash with Aston Villa, saying the team needed time to bed in new signings. But no one expected the result that came. A 4-3 loss dealt City their first league opener defeat since 2014 and Walsh's absence was immediately noticeable.



Rachel Daly scored twice on her Aston Villa debut (Getty)

The holes and space left in the midfield allowed Villa to run rings around the visitors and commentator Fara Williams remarked she had not seen a City side give away as much possession as the side did on Sunday. When Walsh was at the club, she pulled the strings and shut down attacking options. Villa played well and likely would have scored on multiple occasions even if the England star was playing, especially with their new signing Rachel Daly proving to be a livewire, but after City fought back to lead 3-2, they could have benefited from her nous to maintain that advantage.

There is a Walsh-shaped hole in their midfield and they need to fill it sharpish if they want a chance to compete for the title this season.

Liverpool lay down early marker

Matt Beard's Liverpool left Chelsea shell-shocked on Sunday with a 2-1 win to upset the defending champions. It was the first WSL match to have three penalties scored in it, with Katie Stengel converting from the spot twice to give the Reds their fairytale return to the top flight.

Liverpool were promoted to the WSL after winning the Championship last season and were expected to fall to a heavy defeat against the Blues. But a sublime defensive display, combined with spot-kick opportunism after going 1-0 down after just three minutes, saw them deservedly come away with three points.

Many would think Liverpool's goal would be to avoid relegation this season but the result has laid down an early marker. Player-of-the-match Stengel said: "It's stupid to ever say you just want to stay in the league. We're here to compete, we're not just here to survive. Let's make a run for it. We're in the league to win each game. We won't go into any game just wanting to be here and be happy."

Neville deserves England shot

Tottenham's Ashleigh Neville impressed in the league last campaign, which led to many fans calling for the defender to be named in the England squad, although she is still awaiting her first international cap.

Some players would allow the rejection to impact their game but instead, Neville has continued her fine form. She scored the goal of the round with a worldie of a 40-yard screamer against Leicester City on Sunday. Having spotted goalkeeper Kirstie Levell off her line, she thundered the ball towards goal, rattling the back of the net.

She will be hoping England manager Sarina Wiegman was watching; there's not much more the 29-year-old can do to demonstrate why she should get a call-up.

VAR will be discussion focus once more

VAR may have been introduced to the men's game in 2019 but the women's domestic competitions do not have it operating in their matches. This was a discussion point last season with offside calls and ghost goals seeing many, including Chelsea manager Emma Hayes, calling for the WSL to bring it in.

The technology will be spoken about again this season, particularly with two calls by officials proving particularly controversial. The first was Brighton's Emma Kullberg's red card against Arsenal on Friday night. Kullberg tackled Stina Blackstenius on the edge of the box and was shown a straight red after just seven minutes – the Gunners went on to win 4-0. However, Blackstenius was in an offside position when receiving the ball.



Brighton's Emma Kullberg is shown a red card after just seven minutes (PA Wire)

Brighton have lodged an appeal with the Football Association with Kullberg telling Fotbollskanalen: "It's up to the FA now. I hope they watch the clips again and see that they have made a wrongful decision. Best case scenario, they take back my red card."

The other decision coming under scrutiny was a Chelsea goal which was chalked off due to the offside flag being raised against Sam Kerr. The Australian captain was played through and found the net but the flag went up to prevent her from doubling Chelsea's lead. Commentators and fans alike were unconvinced of the call, with many arguing the goal should have stood.

Euros impact evident

The impact of the European Championship, particularly England taking the trophy, was evident to see over the summer with clubs reporting record season ticket sales. But it was particularly highlighted on the opening weekend with record attendances at the majority of matches.

Arsenal's Meadow Park sold out and Liverpool's Prenton Park saw 3,006 fans descend to see their impressive win.

The WSL is growing and the exciting football on display is only going to benefit that.

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Sport news in brief



Cameron Smith with the champion's trophy after winning the LIV Golf Invitational-Chicago tournament on Sunday (AP)

Smith edges Johnson to win first LIV Golf event

Open champion Cameron Smith has won his first LIV Golf trophy and £3.5m in prize money in just his second start in the competition. The Australian, who left the PGA Tour for the controversial Saudi-backed tournament after becoming No 2 in the world – the highest-ranked player to join – closed with a three-under 69 for a three-shot victory at the Chicago Invitational.

The 29-year-old was briefly threatened in the third and final round at Rich Harvest Farms but he restored his lead with a birdie on the 17th to ensure neither Dustin Johnson nor Peter Uihlein could catch him. The next LIV Golf event is in three weeks in Bangkok. *PA*

Homa wins Fortinet Championship after Willett meltdown

Danny Willett suffered a final-hole meltdown as Max Homa retained the Fortinet Championship in California. Homa chipped in on the final hole before Willett three-putted from close range to finish a shot behind his playing partner.

Willett could only laugh at his nightmare finish as he shook hands with Homa, who told Sky Sports: “The last three minutes are kind of a blur. I played solid – Danny and Justin [Lower] both played well but that was a wild finish.” *PA*

Jordan: Pakistan fans will be overjoyed to welcome England

Chris Jordan predicts cricket fans in Karachi will be “overjoyed” to welcome England today when they compete on Pakistani soil for the first time in 17 years. International fixtures have gradually returned to the country since the end of a decade-long absence that followed the terror attack on Sri Lanka’s team bus in 2009, with England finally embarking on their own landmark trip having cancelled a planned visit last year.

Jordan, who has played in Pakistan Super League, believes England’s presence will bring a big sense of occasion. “The guys should expect a very warm welcome, the fans there will be overjoyed to see some of the stars they’ve only ever seen from a distance,” he told the PA news agency. “They have been very much looking forward to this day for quite some time in Pakistan. It should be loud and it should be a great atmosphere. The passion for cricket is burning deep over there.” *PA*

Fury posts Queen tribute – but fans still wait on Joshua news

Tyson Fury has paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II as he broke his social media silence, although fans are still awaiting confirmation of his fight against Anthony Joshua. Fury is trying to set up a heavyweight title bout against Joshua on 3 December and had pledged to upload a video every hour until his fellow Brit agreed. He stopped posting after the news of the Queen's death but has updated his Instagram ahead of the monarch's funeral.

"Hey guys, Queen's funeral today," Fury said in a brief update on his Instagram story. "I've been off social media for the past 10 days mourning, in respect for our Queen who has died," he added. It is thought work was happening behind the scenes and that Joshua received a contract last Friday. The details haven't been confirmed but it's understood there was a 60/40 purse split in Fury's favour but that would change to 50/50 if Fury triggered the rematch clause.

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